

TTS

Volume IV • Issue VII
September 2017
Pages 60 • ₹100/-

Trendy Travel Trade with Food & Shop

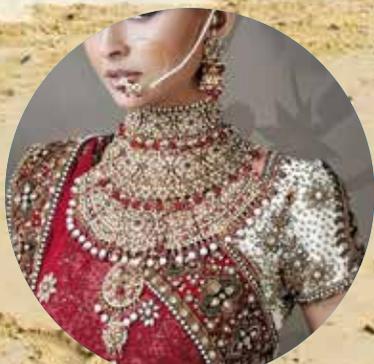


Knot of Vows
In lieu of eloping, connected...

**Mapping India Tourism:
Challenges and GST**
Travel industry no doubt...



**Trends of Wedding
Marriages are most
close to heart ...**



Explore the Exotic Indonesia

INR
55,999
Per person

Honeymoon Special (2N + 2N)

Water Villa Inclusion:

- 2 Night stay in Water Villa
- Airport transfer & pickup for minimum stay 3d2n
- Romantic Dinner (min 3d2n by request)
- Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner and Snack
- Free Flow Coffee, Tea & Mineral water
- Snorkeling equipments
- Scuba Diving
- Hiking and Waterfall Trip

2N Bali Inclusion:

- 2Nights stay at 4* Hotel
- Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner and Snack
- Private car touring
- Indian Cuisine Lunches
- Romantic Dinner Indian Cuisine with a glass of Wine
- Services of English Speaking Guide

*Terms & Conditions apply

Travok
Your journey is safe with us...



Jaipur, popularly known as the 'Pink City' and the stunning capital of Rajasthan attracts tourists and visitors from all over the world, looking to explore and discover a history that is rich and vibrant even today, evident in the city's breathtaking forts and palaces.

Located in the heart of this historical city, where ancient traditions and rich culture blend perfectly with modern way of life is Fortune Select Metropolitan. Being just 10 km away from the airport and 2 km from the railway station, this 5-star hotel is the preferred destination for business and leisure travelers, providing first class facilities and efficient service with traditional Indian hospitality.



FORTUNE
SELECT METROPOLITAN
JAIPUR

Member ITC's hotel group

**FORTUNE SELECT
METROPOLITAN, JAIPUR**
Near Nehru Sahkar Bhawan,
C - Scheme, Bais Godam Circle
Jaipur - 302001, Rajasthan
Phone :+91-141-3988442
Fax :+91-141-3099099

Editor & Publisher : **Vedika Sharma**
 Director: **Babita Sharma**
 Senior Editor : **Tarsh Sharma**
 Reporter : **Komal Arya**
 Consulting Editor : **Pradeep Kapur**
 Consulting Editor (West) : **S K Mishra**
 Marketing Consultant: **Mamta Goel**
 Assistant Manager (Marketing) : **Sumit Jindal**
 Regional Director - (West) : **Manish Rawat**
 Regional Head - (East) : **Antra**
 Consultant Art Director : **Anita Mudgal**
 Graphic Designer : **Sadhan Das**
 Photographer : **Ganesh Kapri**
 Manager Administration : **Gaurav Kumar**
 Manager Circulation : **Himanshu Mudgal**
 E-mail : vedika@fabianmedia.net, babita@fabianmedia.net
 Website : www.fabianmedia.net

Editorial & Marketing Office:

Fabian Media Pvt. Ltd., 168A, Somdutt Chamber-II, Bhikhaji Cama Place, New Delhi - 110066. babita@fabianmedia.net

Published, owned, Printed & Edited by Vedika Sharma

888, Pocket - D, Dilshad Garden, Delhi - 110095,
 Contact @ 011-41058470, 9560264449

Printed at: Pushpak Press, 203-204, DSIDC sheds, Okhla Indl. Area, Phase - I, New Delhi - 110020

All information used in Trendy Travel Trade with Food & Shop (T³FS) is reliable and derived from the sources. With due respect to the sentiments of the readers, none of the information published is aimed at pinching the emotions of the readers. Opinions/ views expressed by third party in abstract or in interviews are not necessarily shared by us. Material appearing in the magazine cannot be reproduced in whole or in part(s) without prior permission. The publisher assumes no responsibility for material lost or damaged in transit. The publisher reserves the right to refuse, withdraw or otherwise deal with all advertisement without explanation. All advertisement must comply with the Indian advertisement code. The publisher will not be liable for any loss caused by any delay in publication, error or failure of advertisement to appear.

PUBLISHER'S NOTE



Dear Reader,

Greetings!

When you will bring the September issue of T³FS the breeze of weddings already surrounds you. By keeping the season of weddings in mind we come up with the theme of destination wedding.

In lieu of eloping, connected with each other would now be able to have the decision to incorporate family and companions on their experience. For couples who need similar points of interest of selectiveness however would prefer not to go down the marriage way totally solo, a goal wedding can check both boxes. Here we have different destinations with the basic information for you to select for your destination wedding.

Eventually in the arranging procedure, each connected with couple engages having a goal wedding — all things considered, who doesn't get energized at the prospect of celebrate their marriage at an exquisite goal of their picking far from home to trade pledges.

Moreover as it's the time of IATO convention so we consider the plight of Tourism Industry in India and the impact of GST. Where after having great interaction with chairman IATO chapter's on desk we concluded that the travel fraternity are facing challenges and unemployment. GST has made India a high priced destination

and uneconomical for tourism. With no priority & funds to tourism infrastructure & promotion, tourism will go down and so will create unemployment.

Moving forward to the hospitality section we focused on the major role of wedding. Here we have focused on the aspects of hospitality on wedding themes, cuisines, décor and venues and the customized wedding specialties of the hotel.

We have on desk different hotels from the different corners of India to brief us about their role and arrangements for weddings.

At last but not least in lifestyle we emphasise on Indian Wedding culture. A vibrant mix of colours and sounds, glitz, religion, cultural norms and emotions, that's what Indian weddings are made of!

Marriage in Hindu culture is a holy service that joins two individuals to begin their lives together. In the Vedas (the most seasoned sacred texts of Hinduism), a Hindu marriage is forever and is considered as a union between two families, not only the couple. A Hindu marriage includes numerous customs, which reaches out more than a few days, however varies from group to group.

Vedika Sharma

vedika@fabianmedia.net

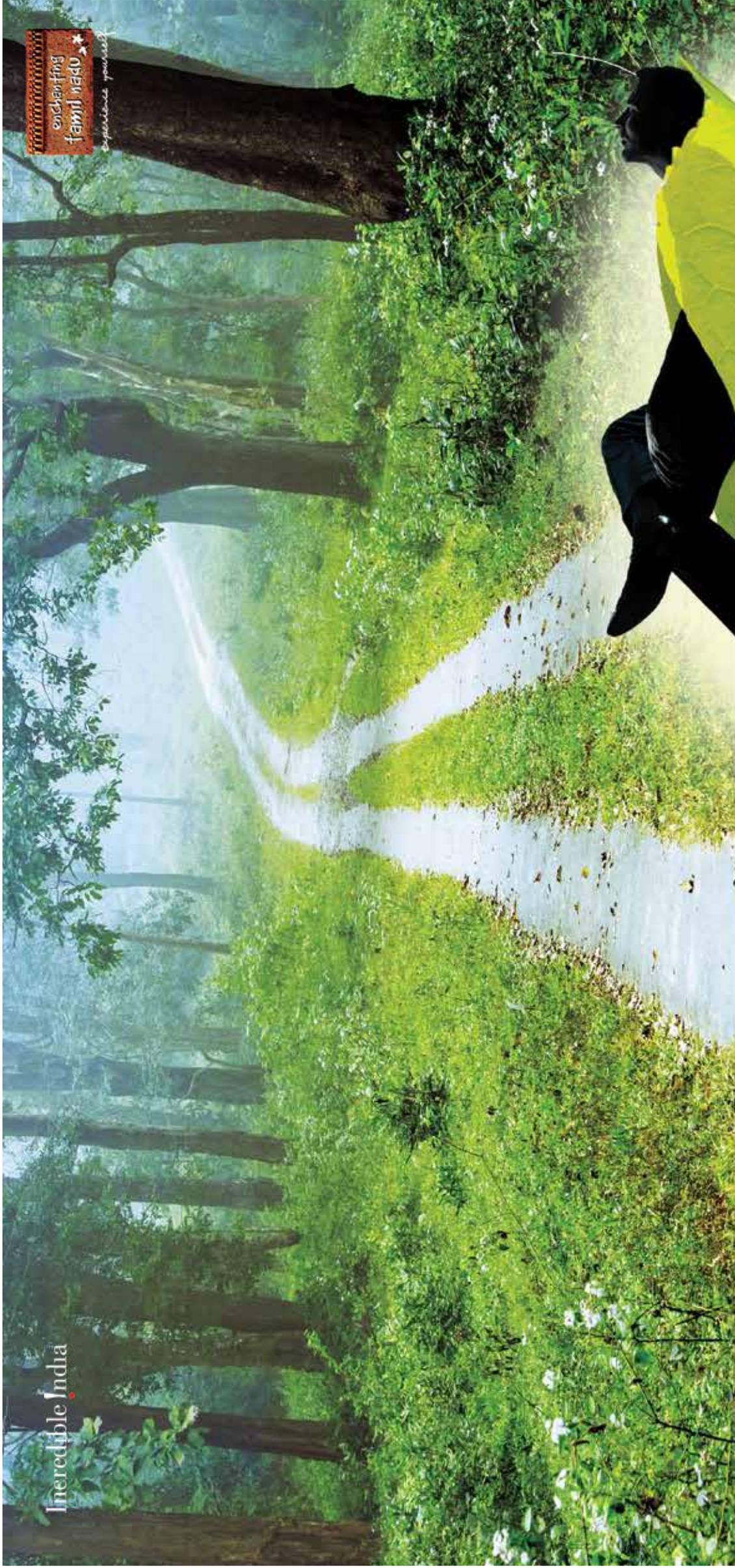
**Come see the world as we see it!
 More than 90 destinations worldwide.**



Ethiopian
 THE NEW SPIRIT OF AFRICA
 A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

Incredible India

enchanting
tamil nadu
experience yourself



UNWIND, AT YERCAUD

A refreshing retreat in the hills. Walk the emerald aisles and immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of Nature.

TAMIL NADU TOURISM

Commissioner of Tourism, Tamil Nadu Tourism Complex, No.2, Wallajah Road, Chennai-600 002. Tamil Nadu, India.
Ph: 91-44-2533 3333 / 3857, Fax: 91-44-2533 3385. Toll Free - 1800 4253 1111, Visit us: www.tamilnadutourism.org

CONTENTS



10 Knot of Vows

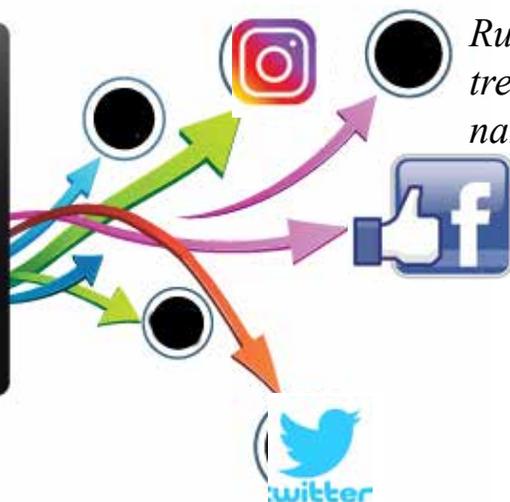
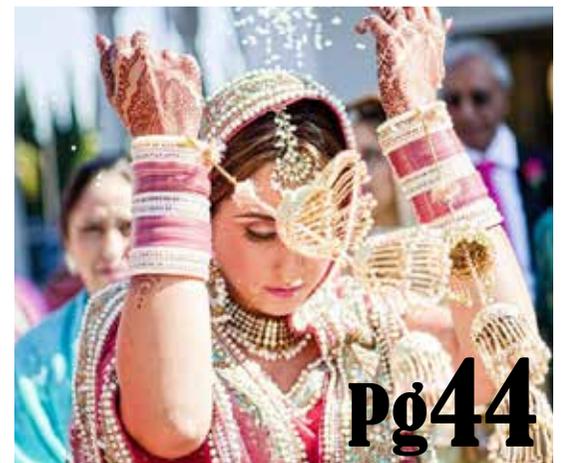
16 Mapping India Tourism: Challenges and GST

24 TAMIL NADU – Captivating Splendor of India

30 Trends of Wedding

44 Indian Wedding & Its Rituals

50 Walk of New Love Lane for Eternity



Runway to get the trends of current scenario.



Get live updates of all travel & lifestyle trends at your fingertips.



fantasies...
of an exotic desert

COMES ALIVE AT



Desert Springs
RESORT
A SPRING IN MIDST OF DESERT

Book a luxurious stay with exotic cuisines, desert adventures and amazing cultural performances.



Sam Dunes, Jaisalmer | +91 9001 890 577 | www.desertsprings.in

Odisha Travel Bazar

Shri Ashok Ch. Panda, Minister for Tourism and Culture, Government of Odisha, invited the doyens of the tourism industry to participate in the first Odisha Travel Bazaar (OTB) on October 15-17, 2017 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, which is being organized by the Department of Tourism, Government of Odisha in partnership with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

Addressing a roadshow organized by FICCI in New Delhi for the upcoming

OTB, Shri Panda said that Odisha is emerging as a priority destination for creative travelers for authentic experiences with its unique natural and cultural heritage, for a diverse and immersive travel experiences to enjoy the absolute beauty of travel in a life time and the Odisha Travel Bazaar would give investors an opportunity to explore various sectors of tourism business. He urged stakeholders in the tourism sector to invest in Odisha and tap its full potential.



VFS Global on to Enhance Operating Performance

VFS Global has completed on 22 August 2017 the acquisition of visa service provider TT Services (TTS). The transaction enables VFS Global to leverage on core competences & brands and to further enhance operating performance.

Services is a provider of integrated visa processing solutions with global presence and a comprehensive portfolio of services. TT Services is headquartered in the United Kingdom and has a strong and long-lasting relationship with its client governments and with a commercial

partner. The company operates 51 application centres in more than 35 countries and has 216 employees. TTS offers a full range of high quality visa services for its client governments, partners and applicants.

Malaysia Multiple Entry E-Visa (MEV)

The Malaysian government introduced the new Multiple Entry E-Visa (MEV) for Indian tourists, effective immediately, from 1 August 2017 to 31 July 2018. The e-visa, which can be applied online at www.windowmalaysia.my, will allow all Indian nationals residing abroad

(except Singapore), to spend up to 30 days in Malaysia per visit, and is valid for a period of three months.

The visa fee will cost INR1000, (not inclusive of the bank charges of INR50), as well as a 25 USD service charge. Applications will take 48 hours to process.

This development comes as part of Malaysia's Government efforts in increasing tourist arrivals from India, with a targeted 1 million tourist arrivals in 2017. India is currently the sixth top tourist generating market for Malaysia, with a total 638,578 Indian visitors recorded in 2016.

Presence of Centara Hotels & Resorts in India

Centara Hotels and Resorts recently organised its first Road Show in India in two metro cities – at St. Regis in Mumbai and at The Leela Palace in New Delhi. Centara is the largest Thai chain with its strong presence in Thailand, Srilanka,

Maldives, Vietnam and Oman. A group whose tradition goes back over 30 years, continues to grow and expand in new and exciting destinations, which include China, Oman, Qatar, Turkey, UAE, Indonesia, Laos, the Maldives, Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand.

With hotels in prime destinations and a wide array of services, Centara has properties to suit any need. Whether it is a family holiday trip, travelling on company business or organising a corporate meeting or conference Centara can cater to all.

TRAC Representations - Maldives Marketing Representative in India

Maldives Marketing & Public Relations Corporation Limited have appointed TRAC Representations as the PR representative of Maldives in India, to strengthen trade relations and execute marketing initiatives by promoting Maldives as a destination for diverse segments of travellers. The key objective is to enhance Maldives as a favoured travel destination for leisure and business amongst the niche travellers, focus on trade push, media presence

through digital and new age media.

Commenting on being appointed as the Official Marketing Representative for Maldives Marketing & Public Relations Corporation Limited Rajeew Nangia, COO, TRAC Representations said, We are absolutely thrilled and overwhelmed with this appointment and privileged to be representing Maldives in India. Maldives has a lot to offer and is one of the top destination for Indian travellers seeking experiential travel..



Incredible India

Experience

9 days of
ethereal beauty

One of the many undiscovered facets of Telangana is the Bathukamma, the 9-day festival of flowers. Being the first festival of its kind that celebrates womanhood, it offers the perfect setting to witness the state come alive in all its glory; giving one a glimpse into the true essence and beauty of a great state, as one gets drawn into the celebration of life; becoming one with the people and nature.

There are a number of legends that surround this 1000-year-old festival. One revolves around Goddess Gauri, who valiantly killed the demon Mahishasura. Myths suggest that she fell into a deep sleep after the battle, waking up only on Dasami, because her devotees ardently prayed to her. The second myth speaks of the prayer and devotion of the Chola King, Dharmaganda and his wife, Satyavati, who after losing 100 sons in a battle, pleaded with Goddess Lakshmi to be born as their child. The Goddess obliged them and a baby girl was born; blessed by all the sages and religious in the land with the precious gift of immortality or 'bathukamma'.

Today, Bathukamma is celebrated as a 9-day state fiesta, actively participated in by the women of Telangana. The festival is most renowned for its large flower pyramids or 'bathukammas'. It is believed that the larger the pyramid, the better. Women spend hours building their bathukammas all through the 2-week long celebration. Once done, they offer it to the deities; Goddess Lakshmi and Goddess Gauri, praying fervently for their wishes and dreams to come true. It is not uncommon to hear folksongs sung with great vigour during the days of celebration. The women of Telangana, dressed in their traditional best, dance and sing praises to the Gods, whilst forming large groups to immerse their flower pyramids in lakes and rivers close to their towns; a practice that not only cleanses the body and soul, but also helps the environment, purifying the water in these lakes and rivers.

Thus, Bathukamma is truly a boon to Mother Nature, celebrating the true spirit of Telangana and the strength and beauty of its womenfolk. Acknowledged as a state festival, Bathukamma is also widely recognised around the world for having the largest number of women participants; over 9000, as recorded in the Guinness Book of World Records, 2016.



Follow us on:



Call: 1800 4254 6464
www.telanganatourism.gov.in



Telangana
Tourism

Knot of vows



In lieu of eloping, connected with each other would now be able to have the decision to incorporate family and companions on their experience. For couples who need similar points of interest of selectiveness however would prefer not to go down the marriage way totally solo, a goal wedding can check both boxes. Here we have different destinations to choose from for your destination wedding.

• **Tarsh Sharma**

Eventually in the arranging procedure, each connected with couple engages having a goal wedding — all things considered, who doesn't get energized at the prospect of celebrate their marriage at an exquisite goal of their picking far from home to trade pledges.

These days, many couples select to do without conventional (and costly) weddings for a closer assembling at a goal they adore. Goal weddings enable couples to broaden their festival from four hours to four days (or however long you see fit), while making a

lifetime of recollections with their dear loved ones. Since they are frequently more private than conventional weddings, goal weddings can likewise be more reasonable for couples.

Each Wedding is paramount in its own privilege however a sharp Theme Wedding can outperform even the richest occasion any couple can compose at home. With a themed wedding you have the alternative of tossing your lady of the hour the wedding she has dependably longed for.

Having a goal wedding topic is a stunning thought. You can consolidate your excellent

function with a superb wedding trip.

There are numerous panoramic and dazzling areas for wedding like Thailand, Malaysia, Israel, Austria and so forth. Goal weddings can be personal (recently the two), constrained to close family and companions, or an excellent issue with several visitors. There are different subject based marriage like submerged wedding, shorelines wedding etc. which draw in individuals to wed in that regal, extravagance or in an alternate way.

Here lets come and investigate the different topic of the different goals to offer.

Thailand: Land of Smiles

The warm and welcoming Thai hospitality with exotic locations and availability of everything required for an Indian wedding makes this destination a perfect choice for celebrating a special occasion in one's life.

Isra Stapanaseth, Director, Tourism Authority of Thailand New Delhi Office, share about the major wedding theme in Thailand. "Thailand has a lot to offer. From Stunning beaches, world class hotels and resorts, yet so reasonable, superb spas, great shopping, wide variety of cuisines, water sports, theme parks, golf courses etc. Thailand offers locations few other countries can in one convenient package. Its sophisticated tourism product, its state of the art infrastructure ensure no matter which corner of Thailand you choose for your celebration, you can expect to get the best. Not only that the finer essentials of an Indian wedding such as Pandit ji, Mehendi artist, Makeup Artist, Horse, elephant etc. are all available in Thailand

The tagline of the country "Amazing Thailand" could be truer. Thailand is the dream destination for a holiday, a wedding, honey moon or adventure. No matter what you ask of this destination, it delivers. To top it all is the world renowned Thai hospitality and Thai Smile which outlines and underlines each encounter. Not for nothing is this land called the "Land of Smiles". Smiles those are

genuine, welcoming and friendly."

He also shed light on underwater wedding and said "Every year in the month of February during Valentines, Thailand organizes a very interesting event "Under Water Wedding" where couples who are divers can tie a knot and have their wedding ceremony under water in Trang. Underwater Wedding Ceremony is widely recognized as one of the most fascinating events, impressed by numerous lovers giving their love to each other among the romantic atmosphere to memorise for the rest of their lives."

While commenting on the affordable option for Indian Market she stated "It is definitely an affordable option that is why Thailand is the most popular destination for Indian Weddings. World class hotels yet so reasonable, variety of cuisines, availability of Indian food/ Jain food, exotic locations, beautiful beaches, variety of flowers and decor material, exceptional service, value for money and proximity to India. All this together makes Thailand an ideal destination for weddings."

"There are close to 400 Indian weddings



Isra Stapanaseth

that take place in different destinations in Thailand each year. Weddings range from 250-800 pax and are usually spread over 3-4 days. Not only weddings, Thailand is also popular for celebrations like anniversaries, birthdays, family re-union, bachelor/Bachelorette parties etc." He added.





Christine Mukharji

Austria: Opulent Palace Wedding Themes

From venues ranging from Breathtaking Palaces to Picturesque towns and villages, Idyllic vineyards, Rolling Meadows and Glorious Mountains, in Austria you will find endless amounts of wedding inspiration.

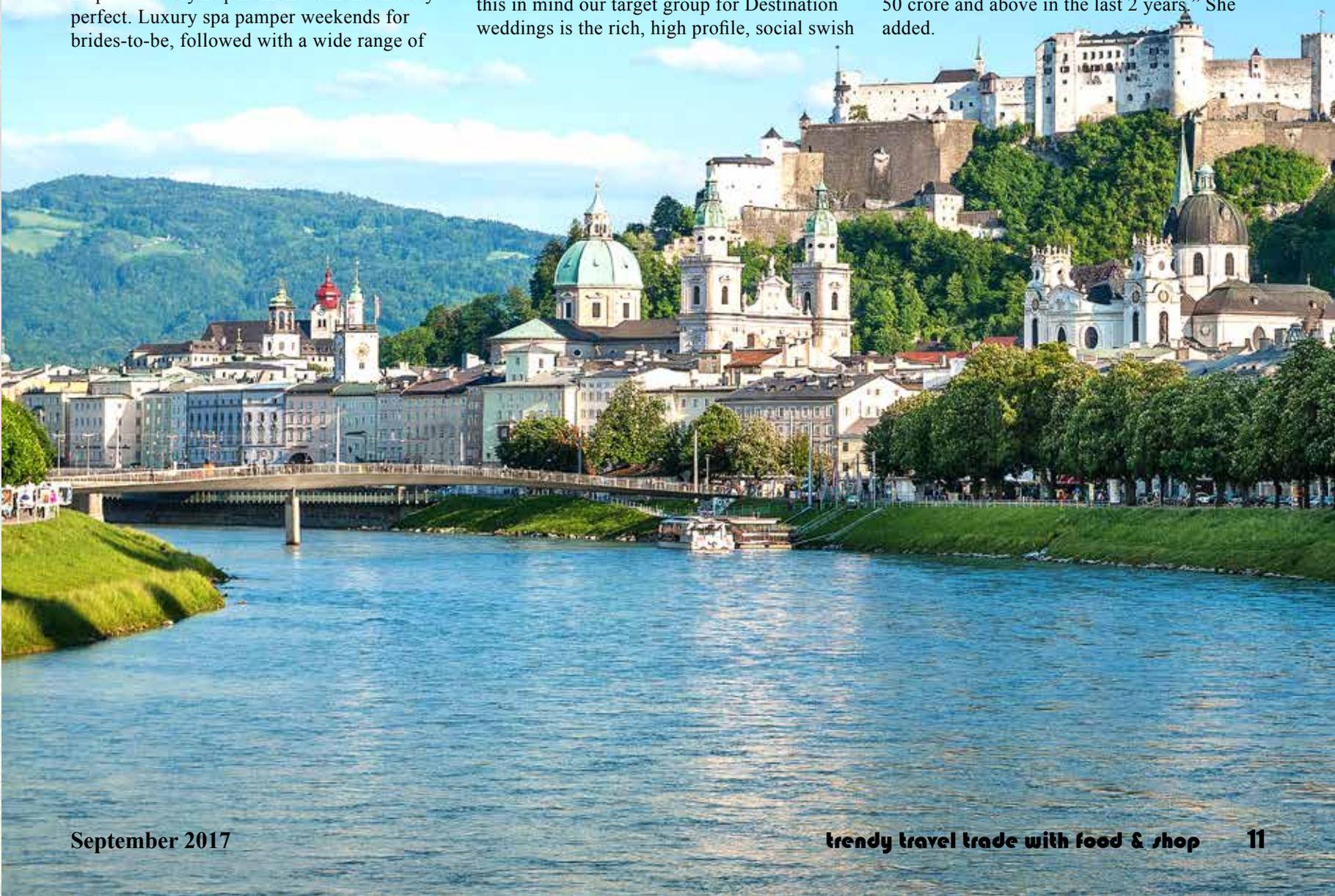
Christine Mukharji, Market Manager, ANTO India shares about the major wedding theme in Austria with the exclusive offers and facilities “Opulent palace wedding themes are most popular for Austria. Austria offers the most romantic wedding setting and the best of wedding planners to help with every requirement to make the day perfect. Luxury spa pamper weekends for brides-to-be, followed with a wide range of

choices for the most romantic honeymoon to choose from and you have Austria as the preferred choice for any destination wedding.”

While commenting on affordable option for Indian Market she said “Austria being a niche destination, spends will definitely be higher than neighbouring Asian destinations. Keeping this in mind our target group for Destination weddings is the rich, high profile, social swish

set of society. Having said that, Austria, with its breathtaking beauty and varied venues, has all it takes to make even a mid budget wedding extra special.”

“In the last 3 years we have seen an increase in weddings happening in Austria. We have had 2 huge weddings with spends of Rs 50 crore and above in the last 2 years.” She added.





Hassan Madah

Israel: Mystical Land with Varied Options

An ideal and unique place to begin a new journey in a land where it all began.

While discussing on the major theme of wedding in Israel Hassan Madah, Director – Israel Ministry of Tourism India & Philippines said “Israel is a destination where East meets West and is a warm yet cosmopolitan country which welcomes celebrations. It is a mystical land that gives every couple the opportunity to choose a dream setting for their wedding ceremony and for their guests ranging from exotic, fun, historic, spiritual or an experience with a little bit of everything. Israel offers a variety of landscapes to create stunning and unique backdrops to a wedding setting. Couples can take their ‘saat pheras’, or

exchange vows and begin a new journey where it all began, a nation filled with history and the wonders of modern technology, engulfed in natural beauty.

Couples can choose to have a traditional ceremony or opt for distinct venues, like on the shores of the Sea of Galilee or any of the many ancient sites. The wedding planners will go the extra mile to accommodate requests to ensure a great experience.”

He stated that be it a high end luxurious wedding or a simple close-knit family wedding, Israel provides a perfect setting. The ceremony and reception locations, decor and

food play a vital role in defining the budget and wedding planners can accommodate different budgets while planning.

“Israel hosts a number of destination weddings, attracting travellers from all over the world to congregate and enjoy the fun and festivities of their dear ones with friends and family. Israel as a tourism destination to Indian travellers is gaining momentum, with over 30,000 travellers this year, though we are hoping to welcome the “Big Indian Wedding” celebrations in Israeli cities soon.” He added.





Sulaiman Bin Suip

Breath of Freshness to Indian Wedding

Malaysia has mix of culture of Malay, Indian, Chinese and local indigenous people which can provide the perfect setting for Indian wedding in the flavour of Asia. There are many houses of worship namely, temples, churches and gurudwara which can be used to perform holy rituals involve in Indian wedding.

Sulaiman Bin Suip, Director, Tourism Malaysia, North and East India shed light on major wedding theme in Malaysia with the exclusive offers and facilities they have “Malaysia has many themes to offer namely city wedding, resort wedding, beach wedding, hill side wedding etc. There are exotic Islands that have landscapes of Malaysia for small ceremony that lingers forever in the mind of guests. Malaysia also has availability of over 200 golf courses and cool highlands wedding themes. Malaysia has unlimited themes and can provide breath of freshness to Indian wedding. Many hotels and resorts in Langkawi, Penang and Kota Kinabalu have their own Indian wedding coordinators to greatly facilitate destination wedding with the added availability of professional vendors, organizing an Indian destination wedding in Malaysia is hardly a breeze, providing comfort and convenience to the families of the bride and groom.”

“Malaysia is value for money destination, it plays favourably to the budget of average wedding families. It is the fact that the ranges of hotels in Malaysia is varied and provide many options not only for wedding families but also for general travellers. Nonetheless, there are always options for exclusive weddings at world class hotels & Resorts at exotic locations like Langkawi, Penang and Kota Kinabalu.” He commented on the affordability as per Indian wedding.

“Malaysia has managed to get 15-20 Indian weddings from India but also many NRI families from countries like Australia, UK, USA and New Zealand etc.” he said with respect to weddings in Malaysia.

“Malaysia can cater any kind of wedding with the availability of various golf courses, islands, beaches and hills. You name it and u will get it in Malaysia. Malaysian people are friendly and happy to serve you in best way. There is no language barrier; English is

well spoken by people of Malaysia. Malaysia is easily accessible; we have 202 direct flights from India and have the option of connecting flight from Thailand & Singapore. Now it’s very easy to get Malaysian Visa. Malaysia Government had introduced eVisa in 2016 and in April 2017, we have introduced Visa Waiver Program called eNTRI which allows tourists to get 15 days single entry permit to visit Malaysia. On 1st August 2017, Malaysia government has upgraded eVisa from single entry visa to multiple entry with the validity of three month and it has further upgraded on 22nd August 2017 by waiving visa fee (INR 1000) to provide 15 days multiple visa at the cost of USD 25 processing fee with validity of 3 months. Now people can enter Malaysia multiple times with help of eVisa. We hope this initiative would increase the interest of Indian families to choose Malaysia for their destination wedding.” He focused on Malaysia as a unique destination for weddings.



Dream Weddings Come Alive in South Africa

With magnificent mountains, lush landscapes, golden beaches, award winning vineyards and delectable food, South Africa offers a unique location for an unforgettable wedding and honeymoon.



Hanneli Slabber

Hanneli Slabber, India Country Manager – South African Tourism shed light on South Africa as wedding destination “From saying I do at a beach-front in Eastern Cape to walking down the aisle at award winning vineyards along the Garden Route, or even tying the knot while floating above the clouds in a hot air balloon – dream weddings come alive in South Africa!

We have seen a rise in destination weddings for Cape Town and the Garden Route, especially the trend where one party is a NRI.

Both these destinations offer breathtaking views at the same time being incredibly easy from a planning and accessibility perspective.

We have observed a lot of the smaller wedding groups opting for game lodges. They often book the entire lodge and spend considerable time prior to the wedding, bonding with family and friends and experience various outdoor activities especially, game drives.”

“The Indian wedding entourage can range from an intimate group of close family and

friends to a mega extravaganza of a 100+ guests. Bigger wedding gatherings comprise of anywhere between 200 to 800 attendees. South Africa is equipped to cater to every group size and price-point. There are numerous service providers and specialists who source and manage requirements locally thus controlling budget margins for wedding parties. All this coupled with a favourable exchange rate make South Africa a dream destination for Indian weddings.” She commented with respect to the affordability destination option.



Exploring the Andaman Sea



Tourism Authority of Thailand
New Delhi: Tel: 91 11 46741111 | Email: tatdel@tat.or.th
Mumbai: Tel: 91 22 22020264 | Email: tatmumbai@tat.or.th
Website: www.tourismthailand.org

Mapping India Tourism: Challenges and GST

Travel industry no doubt is a key to generate economy and employment of the country. Is Travel industry in India on a same track? If Yes, then why most of the travel fraternity facing challenges and found unemployment? If No, then what are consequences of that and how to overcome with it? Let us try to find the answer of this question from our of Inbound Tour Operators friends.

• **Vedika Sharma**

Here on desk we have various chapter chairman of IATO from different regions of India. With the aim of this story we will try to present the facts of Travel Industry of India and the Impact of GST on Inbound Tour Operators of India.

South Region

While talking about the growing tourism in India and the challenges which remain, Mr. E.M. Najeed Chapter Chairman IATO Southern Region said, “South Asia will be the fastest growing region as India out-paces China. Major countries projected to experience strong travel and tourism GDP growth will be India, China, Thailand, Indonesia, Peru and Kenya. It is evident that India will see a tremendous growth in tourism in the coming years as part of the expected global tourism movement.

At this point we should check whether we are fully equipped for this inflow. India should fix up a target of tourist arrivals in a period of time as we have once done earlier. Our National Tourism Policy should be formulated fully supportive of this objective. Capacity building is a task we should focus on.

Infrastructure like network of airports, airstrips, seaports, roads, and rail connectivity need to be improved in terms of capacity and quality. Restoration and preservation of heritage landmarks, art and culture should be taken up. Nature and environment, particularly rivers, canals, lakes and water-bodies should be restored without pollution. Skill development in the tourism industry at different levels should be taken up on a war footing. Qualified and trained personnel can change the visitor experience to a satisfying level. A highly powerful authority or body who can bring the important stakeholders and doers together is essential for this purpose. This is a challenge to the Tourism industry in India, to be taken up by the Government, related public sector, the private sector in the industry, NGOs, State Governments, local bodies, and

general public.

Hospitality industry is the sector that extends diverse and appealing visitor experiences. Tour operation segment along with the hospitality vertical in tourism should be supported with facilities for marketing and a favorable taxation regime.”

“According to the Kerala Tourism Statistics 2016, the Foreign Tourist Arrival during the year was 10,38,419 and the Domestic Tourist Arrival 1,31,72,535. The Increase of FTA over the previous year was 6.23% and the increase of DTA was 5.67%. The Economic reforms in India during the period had affected the domestic tourists inflow to the state. Now in 2017, the tour operators are facing another challenge of the new taxation regime GST. Ofcourse the shift to the new system has created some concerns among the tour operators community.



E.M. Najeed

The GST 5% is calculated on the entire package leading to repetition of taxes, as the other service components also are taxed. The outbound tour operators also face confusion as the services are provided outside India. The hotels also have confusion about charging GST on the rack rate or the real charged rate. They have the strong opinion that the 5% GST should be calculated only on the margins.” He further commented on the impact of GST on Inbound Tour Operators of Southern Region.

East Region

While discussing on GST, J K Mohanty, Chapter Chairman –IATO, Eastern Region said “GST is definitely going to hamper the travel industry which runs with commissions ranging from 1% by airlines with a profit margin of hardly 5%. With cutthroat competition the inbound tour operators are bound to face challenges for keeping cost low

for promoting affordable tour packages.”

“However, having said this I would also like to emphasise that Odisha is the only state in the country that can be major part of the art, craft, culture, cuisine, beaches, lakes, mountains, tribes, the richness of temple architecture, rich heritage tourism, rich odissi dances, the tussar silk woven sarees, silver filigree works,

rich stone carved status, sand art exhibitions, the rich eco tourist destinations, Bhitarkarnika, the largest mangrove forest in India which is also called the Mini Amazon by foreign tourists. This state has more to offer any other states in the country.

The inbound tourism is most likely going to grow faster with the international air connectivity and more publicity and branding in national and international media.” He commented on the status of the state of Odisha.



J K Mohanty

North Region

Sunil C. Gupta, Chairman - IATO Northern Region shares about the real picture of travel industry in Northern Region of India and said "The Inbound tourism in Northern region has not witnessed any significant increase which was expected after the introduction and further relaxation in E -Visa process. There is growth in Buddhism Pilgrimage Tours and from China too.

The challenges are poor connectivity, terrible road conditions, lack of hygiene, confusion with GST, language speaking guides beyond metros and rising costs. The tourism in Northern States has huge potential to multiply if the Government gives due priority and funds to tourism

infrastructure and promotion.

Agra / Khajuraho desperately need more flights. The road conditions especially after rains become terrible and need immediate attention between Jhansi, Khajuraho, Varanasi and the entire Buddhist pilgrimage route. The hygiene and cleanliness has not shown any progress despite "Swatch Abhiyaan " and the SBC tax collected on every invoice."

He further acknowledges about the problems facing by the Northern Region Tour operators due to GST "The GST is not clear at all and no clarifications are coming from GST helpdesks. The 5 % GST is on package and in condition it is mentioned that package should

include "Accommodation and Transportation ". There are many cases where the tour operators provide only accommodation. In some cases the services of transport with guide and entrances are provided but without accommodation hence GST is 18 % or 5 %? 18 % RCM on monument entrances is simply not possible to absorb and the act does not exempt entrances paid at monuments as exempts only museums, parks and Zoo. The Govt has permitted operation below 20 Lakhs to unregistered providers but there are no registered alternate like GUIDES hence the operators have to pay 18 % GST on behalf of guides under RCM but no ITC allowed.

There will be tax on tax as tour operators take services from local tour operators and without ITC it shall increase the package cost. Tajmahal,



Sunil C. Gupta

Agra Fort and Fatehpur Sikri entrances total to Rs. 2060/- per person and how do we pay 18 % GST on same under RCM and also how to purchase tickets in cash (Only Rs. 10000/- per day cash allowed in Income Tax act) as ASI website is down and also not possible all the time to book ONLINE tickets in the absence of Passport details."

Karnataka

S. Mahalingaiah, Chairman, IATO Karnataka Chapter speaks about the challenges of tourism industry and mentioned "Tourism is ever green industry and always grows. We are facing new challenges such as change in visa issuing process, change in traditional marketing to online marketing, new technologies combined with social media, especially rapid change in web development front, new apps, etc.

many things to get going is the big challenge. Finally customer is the king, he thinks he gets cheaper options online and ends up paying more for the same product which is available for lesser price with local agents."

While commenting on GST he added "We are happy with GST. We are disappointed with the fact that borders for goods are removed and made as one country and one border and 1 tax. RTO borders for tourist

vehicles are still exist and even All India Permit Tourist vehicles need to stop and pay at each state check post and go. We were hoping this will be removed and unfortunately it is still continued. It is high time that Surface Transport in government of India take note of this and come out with solution. Our association should make representation and work with Ministry to remove this border taxes and permits for Tourist vehicles. We don't mind paying taxes like GST from our office and not at check post where we make our guest /tourist to wait for hours together to pay this. Major problem is harassment to



S. Mahalingaiah

drivers. Sometimes they need to pay 2 or 3 time more without receipt."

Kerala

Sejoe Jose, Chairman, IATO Kerala Chapter while focusing on growth of India said "Tourism in India has many ups and downs. Though statistics says there is growth in Tourism industry of India, but the growth rate which India should achieve is still a distant dream especially when you compare new destinations in the world. The Indian government taking the step of e-visa has been a great welcome note for India Tourism. However one should understand that other destinations which are looking at Tourism as an important Industry has made the possibility of visa on arrival for their source markets. The reduced visa rates also make it attractive for people to travel to any destination. The second biggest challenge India faces in tourism is that government has

not accepted Tourism as an important industry. If this was done with any decisions taken by government or order passed by Supreme Court, the tourist angle would be studied and only then any order of policy would be made. The closing of Bars along the highway has given as very negative image for the country showing the irresponsibility of the people and government not able to control the drinking problem of the country. India has been taking various moves for nationalisation and bringing patriotic feel among the citizen. However, though the swatch Bharat was introduced, the biggest problems faced by various tourist destinations is waste management. International and Domestic tourist would love to visit and travel to clean destinations and not dirty destination. Finally the last point I would

like to mention is positive image and news needs to be given to the world. The attitude of showcasing only the negative side of the country has wounded the image of India in large and we need to set this right. If these challenges are covered then I am sure India would see growth by over 50% ."

"The introduction of GST and the rules applied for hotels and Tour operators has become a big blow to the Tourism industry. This clearly shows that India government has not recognised Tourism as an important Industry. The taxation of 28% for hotels above tariff of Rs 7500/- has made India one of the highest taxed country making India not competitive in the international market. In case of Tour operators there is double taxation. That is Tour operator does not get input credit for what he/ she buying from vendors like transporter / hotelier / guide service and thus adding tax while selling to the customer. The argument that Tour operator has to pay only the lowest GST



Sejo Jose

slab of 5% hence cannot take input tax is wrong. In case of garment industry government is again charging only 5% on the margin (not on the full bill) and also they can get input tax. In principle with GST, Government of India has made India expensive destination and instead of one tax it has changed to double tax in tourism Industry." He commented on GST.

Maharashtra

Himanshu Agashiwala, Chairman, IATO, Maharashtra chapter shed light on the challenges of tourism industry “Our Country inspite of Rich Tradition, Customs, Culture, Festivals has got Challenges of “Growth in Tourism”.

The figures shows that tourism is growing, but if you see in details then one will realise that this growth is actually due to arrivals from our neighbouring countries, which is not actually tourism but either Family Visits or Business Visits. The real tourism which comes from Western Countries, South American & African Countries apart from other Asian Countries like China & Japan is still not growing.

Apart from a good infrastructure, we are now faced with multiple tax system, and very high rate of GST, making our Country uneconomical. This has given advantage to Thailand, Sri Lanka and other such Countries. Our Visa policy even improved, still Lacks its proper

implementation. Also Unfriendly approach to Tourism industry by State Governments except a handful of states, has further added to the Challenges.

How can a Client Landing in Mumbai, go to Nagpur with a long wait in Mumbai, and again drive on a very rough hand bumpy road full of potholes to Tadoba to see Wild life. How can a foreign client land in Mumbai, take a Flight to Rajkot and drive 5 hours to Gir National Park to see Lions, and that too have to wait in Queue for days to get tickets online to enter the jungle. Imagine a Guest landing at Mumbai port and have to wait in a long immigration queue, going to Elephanta and wait for agent to buy tickets in cash for 200 people, (card Payment is not possible for 200 people at a time, online payment cannot be done by the agent without prior details and Bulk pre purchase of tickets facility is not there). After all the hardship again come back to port to board the Cruise on time. Our Hotels are highly priced, above all there are cascade of GST which

makes India a Very High priced destination. A travel agent has to “take care” of so many agencies just to get their vehicle park, and also to get in & out of Port. Lack of government approved guides has made guide fees very high and unimaginable, adding to the Cost (initiative to increase number of guides is not there among state & central government).

All this makes inbound tourism Very Challenging.”

“IATO –Maharashtra, had an organised series of meetings between members of IATO & GST Experts, GST officials in the past 2 months, to educate our members and clarify their doubts on GST. However many are still in the state of Confusion on this issue. With the result there is still a bit of chaos within the industry. Multiple GST slabs and cascading effect of GST is a part of costing of our products, resulting in a high Cost of India inbound tours. Hotels with 28% tax, Vehicle owner charges 5% GST, the agent who hires the same has to again add 5% on the same while selling it to foreign agent. Thus the total package cost includes 28% GST of hotel, 5% on Vehicles, 5%



Himanshu Agashiwala

on Guides, 18% on restaurants, 18% on guide fees and overall after adding agents margin again adding 5% GST. Look how fat the figure becomes when it goes to the actual user of India Tours.

This GST is going to kill our tourism industry. Cruise Companies are not taking this well and will slowly stop docking on our ports.

Maharashtra with Mumbai as a major inbound city with around 60 plus ships coming last year will witness a downfall of number of ships arriving in Mumbai if Service tax is not taken care of, all this resulting in loss of Jobs in our trade.” He added.

Himachal Pradesh

While commenting on growing and challenges fact of Indian Tourism

Industry, Narendra Bhardwaj, Chairman IATO Himachal Pradesh Chapter said “I agree that going by numbers, all the segments of travel industry, whether Outbound, Domestic or Inbound are growing with slow or high pace. However, we keep hearing from tour operators that their business is not growing or declining. Numbers of travellers are growing but their booking pattern has got changed. Increasing reach of internet and with the advent of innovative booking portals as well as apps, traditional tour operators are losing importance. Now, having plethora of information on their fingertips, clients do not require a travel agent’s advice about

destinations or hotels. They surf for the best deals available online and book it while sitting at their home or office. For rooms and air tickets, travel agent’s role has almost become irrelevant. However, for organized tours, still a lot of people prefer to go to a tour operator who can give them right advice and can be reached upon in case of any problem. We will have to adopt required changes in our ways of working to exist and grow in business. We have to focus on experience factor and have to have some USP which an online agent can’t give. Key is to focus on client’s retention and referral clients. Apart from this new challenges keep coming, latest being the introduction of GST which has for a while shackled the industry, though, I feel everything will be settled with the passage of time.

While sharing his views on GST he stated “Change is only constant thing in life. GST is a good thing happened to the country, but somehow it is not looking very good for our industry for two reasons. First is that the nature of our industry is such that GST brings more problem than solution to tour operators. Second, government still sees tourism as a luxury thing, ignoring the direct & indirect employment and foreign exchange it generates for the country. My advice to the operators in my state is that, rather than getting panicked & confused, they must equip themselves with the required knowledge & understanding of the new tax system and must adopt it instead of finding ways to avoid it. If they require, IATO can conduct special training programs for them or their accounting staff to clear their doubts & apprehensions in this regard”.



Narendra Bhardwaj

Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Andaman & Nicobar

Pandian K, Chairman, IATO – Tamilnadu, Pondicherry and Andaman & Nicobar Chapter said “Yes, Travel Industry is definitely growing but the attitude of people, the way they perceive things remain as a huge challenge. We need to adopt (embrace) ourselves with the changes. We should stop complaining

about OTA's and start adapting to the current trend and do business accordingly. Change is the only constant and whoever embraces this change will be able to sustain in business.”

“GST is definitely a welcoming move I would say. In India, especially in Tamil Nadu, Tourism remains as an unorganized sector for a very long time.

There are only few registered Inbound Tour operators in Tamil Nadu. Most of them have not registered their business which is very unfortunate. But this GST now is not going to spare any unregistered business to thrive. So there will be ethical business in Tamil Nadu in the forthcoming days.” He commented on GST.



Pandian K

Uttar Pradesh, Uttrakhand & Bihar

Prateek Hira, Chairman, IATO, Uttar Pradesh, Uttrakhand & Bihar Chapter, while commenting on growing tourism market and challenges of Tourism mentioned, “Inbound tourism markets in the states under my chairmanship, Uttar Pradesh, Uttrakhand and Bihar (including Jharkhand) are looking up and states too have realized the importance of tourism in these states, that earlier were not forthcoming for tourism. Central and state governments both are upbeat to open up new avenues for inbound tourists in these states. The tourist inflow has increased, though marginally, but the sentiments do signal a substantial growth prospects for the upcoming tourist season. Opening up more tourist avenues hopefully will bring in more of repeat tourists and change the monotonous images of these three states. Hotel infrastructure has substantially increased, especially in the state of Uttar Pradesh giving it an edge over all others, given that this is an important consideration for inbound markets, we are sure to see an addition in numbers this year.

Having said this, the immediate concern of course is safety and security, though not so much in real but of course by way of a negative perception that has made inroads in foreign tourists' minds. The government is doing little to change this perception. India should seriously and strategically plan a campaign to counter this. Encouraging more women to be entrepreneurs, tourist- guides and taxi-drivers is just one of the ways to do this and of course a well planned marketing strategy and road shows abroad.

Uttrakhand is a difficult terrain and needs huge infrastructure still to compete with other states. The projection of the state presently is based on religion, nature and adventure, but to cater a larger segment, the state needs to argue itself with other niche domains such as heritage, rural and wildlife that are lacking in projection. Connectivity is a grave concern, of course laying road network is difficult in this state, but the issue of

connectivity can be managed by good air-network and helicopter services.

Bihar as a state has a unique distinction at many places specially connected to Buddhism, but sadly it is just that. The untapped potential is immense in the area of archeology, religion and history that often is overlooked, thus creating a void and limitations. The state has to have a robust policy for tourism development and needs to put in concentrated efforts in to tourism.

Uttar Pradesh has finally looked beyond Taj and that is important, as new avenues need to be created and projected afresh so that tourists have a reason to come again as a repeat tourist and appreciate the state for all its assets. The state's Bundelkhand and Vindhyaal regions that are substantially rich in tourism products have not been able to see the light due to underestimation and oversightedness of successive governments. For an all round regional development it is imperative now to have a separate policy for these to come up well and join the coveted list of avenues available in the state.

The governments in all these three states need to realize that tourism is a specialist area and they need to be involving the private sector more and more and take consultative opinions to plan better tourism for themselves. I am positive with the new and coordinated governments in these three states and at the center and all the challenges hopefully will be ironed out soon. IATO extends all its unconditional support to the states at all times.

As Tour Operators of course now the time has come to reinvent ourselves and be relevant today. Considering infrastructure of tourism, hotels, air connectivity, all are becoming strong and the atmosphere is conducive, it is just a matter of understanding the worth and reinventing the destination to make it relevant to the discerning traveller of today.

Inbound markets that were quite restricted to only a few countries have

now extended to small and unheard markets too. Of course now instead of 'geographical market segmentation', it has become 'tourist profile segmentation' and we as tourism professionals ought to understand this shift, and reinventing to fit the bill. Having said that, I strongly believe that traditional markets of UK and US have to be further strengthened along with other European and South American markets, as I feel India will benefit the most still from these, given their expenditure patterns and loyalty towards India as a destination. Africa is totally untapped and we have not looked at it seriously barring of course a few countries there, so this can come in as an extension of the traditional markets.

“AMBIGUOUS is this tax at the moment, when we are not aware of how much on what and how.

Tour Operators in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Uttrakhand and Bihar are small to medium size business and tour operators are finding the GST compliance extremely cumbersome, given that the concentration on accounting will now increase manifold so will the cost of compliance and all this is surely going to have a ripple effect on offer rates.

Due to GST confusions hotels too have withheld the rates and this delay has resulted in overall delay in package costing.

On another count the multiplicity in the rate bracket within the services is another reason of concern. 5% GST without an Input Tax Credit (ITC) on tour operators is actually killing the business, as effectively it would be about 23%, if we add hotel or tax on guide services to it, which is almost one fourth of the total cost of a tour that tourist will finally bear. A hotel that is being sold at an X price including GST will cost X + 5% when booked through a tour operator. Hotel rates are not only excessively dynamic today but also most of the times subsidized further by Online Travel Agents through cash-backs and offers, this in turn will put undue pressure on traditional tour operators' businesses. If we had ITC facility like other businesses, tax burden on tourists could have been just 18% uniformly, giving tour operators a level playing field.



Prateek Hira

Composition scheme should have been allowed to tour operators as well, the way restaurants and small trades have been allowed to register for this. In the states under my chairmanship, Uttar Pradesh, Uttrakhand and Bihar, rather all of India for that matter, there are many small tour operators, may be just a husband and wife team or may be two friends operating as partners, with absolutely no other staff, who just may be doing a turnover of about 50-75 lacs or so, they surely will have a tough time to survive now and strict compliance under GST will force them to increase their accounting costs cutting on their small earnings, which earlier were about 15% or so, but helped them to be self-employed and sufficiently earning a living for themselves. This thereby is actually defeating the government's mission of creating self employment and encouraging entrepreneurship.

Tour Operators today have diverse roles that are beyond just booking hotels and transport and these include unique local experiences, where the clarity is totally missing, if we take it on the basis of 18% tax slab on reverse charge basis, it effectively becomes 23% which is actually prohibitive and defying employment opportunities that our government intends to create.

Tour Operators are only facilitators for a traveler and a tool to attract tourists, they could easily have been spared as all services offered through a tour operator is in any case taxed, hotels, meals, transport, air-tickets etc and reverse charge mechanism could have been put in place to avoid any service going untaxed.” He added.

North East

Nirmalya Choudhury, Chairman, IATO North East States said “As a tour operator based out of North East India, we have seen increased interest and consequent increase in number of visitors to the region, both by domestic and foreign visitors. Destinations such as Guwahati, Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, Manas National Park, Kaziranga National Park in Assam, Shillong, Dawki and Cherrapunjee in Meghalaya, Kohima, Mon in Nagaland, Tawang, Bomdila, Ziro in Arunachal Pradesh and Aizawl in Mizoram, Agartala, Udaipur, Unakoti in Tripura are some of the destinations that are attracting an increasing number of visitors.

JTI Group’s luxury River Cruise on the mighty Brahmaputra River in Assam is attracting more foreign visitors. We have also launched a small, private and exclusive, river cruise vessel, MV Rudra Singha to cater to the demands of discerning travelers who want to explore the Brahmaputra River and the many attractions on both banks of the river without being part of a group.

Under the aegis of our sister concern Assam Bengal Navigation; we are also launching a new cruise vessel, MV Charaideew II in October 2018. The new vessel will accommodate 32 passengers in luxurious comfort and will sail on a great stretch of the Brahmaputra River.

The challenges concerning our region, particularly the far off corners of our region remain the lack of quality infrastructure like connectivity and accommodation. Dearth of enough professionally trained and locally available man-power is also a challenge.

Good news is, road, rail and air connectivity within the North East Region is a focus area for both the Central Government and the state governments. Great strides are already being made in the direction of making far off areas of North East Region more easily accessible. A stellar example of the same is the recent inauguration of the Bhupen Hazarika Bridge, also referred to as the Dhola-Sadiya Bridge over Brahmaputra River in Assam.

Government of India along with State Governments of North East Region is also working towards

facilitating better and newer road, air and inland waterway connectivity with our neighbouring countries like Myanmar, Thailand, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh.

Various skill development schemes related to tourism and hospitality by both Central and State Governments have already been established and we have a good number of young people readying to be inducted by local entrepreneurs in the field of Tourism and Hospitality.

The pristine destinations of North East India Region needs to be developed while keeping in mind the long term sustainability and the fragile ecology of the region. We must understand that once spoiled, it will be almost impossible to regain ecological balance of the region. Hence, all new development, be it hotels, roads, airports or inland waterways; all infrastructure should be built with minimum possible affect to local ecology. We should make use of the modern knowledge of building infrastructure that blends with the surrounding landscape and not stick out like an eyesore. As much as possible, we should use locally available material and traditional architectural methods and designs.



Nirmalya Choudhury

All of the above can help create a unique identity for the North East Indian destinations and can help draw a more discerning lot of travellers who would spend longer duration in the region and would not mind spending more for unique and immersive experiences in the region.

Awareness about the fantastic and unspoiled destinations of the North East Region of India is growing every year as more and more travellers are visiting the region. With infrastructure, connectivity and manpower development picking up in the region, we are looking forward to greater arrivals in the region; both by Domestic and Foreign visitors.”

Gujarat

Randhir Singh Vaghela, Chairman, IATO, Gujarat Chapter speaks about the concerns of tourism industry and stated “The Indian Travel Industry is growing with more Tourist Arrivals in India every year however the growth rate is hampered due to the various challenges that it faces. Good Quality Tourism Infrastructure which is not present across different destinations covering the full itinerary

and not just key towns / cities is of utmost importance. Global Concerns of Health and Safety is a big challenge as it is of utmost importance to make India safe for everyone. The High Taxes makes us less attractive option vis a vis some of the other countries and having adequate skilled Tourism Oriented manpower is the requirement of the day.”

While shedding light on GST he mentioned “GST is the new reality of

trade and more and more people are coming to terms of it. All the Inbound Tour Operator in Gujarat are gearing up for the new business challenges, one of the challenges shall be to ensure all the Hotels, Guides and Transporters that vendors are aligned to the GST Rules and its compliances with respect to billing and return timelines.

The No Input Credit on 5% GST is one of the concerns for most of the Tour Operators as it would make the cost inflated of the tour package, this would make it less attractive option for the tourist compared to other



Randhirsingh Vaghela

countries.”

Odisha

While talking about challenges of the industry, Gagan Sarangi, Chairman IATO Odisha chapter said, “Travel industry is growing in India but most of the challenges in the tourism Industry come from within. There are infrastructure problems including inadequate roads, water, sewer, hotels. Tourist facilities have a lack of skilled workers

to fill all the positions to cater to international visitors. But the biggest problem arises due to the lack of clarity and transparency in the various rules, regulation related to the tourism Industry. GST is almost going to kill the Tourism Industry .The Tourism Industry in India has become Uncompetitive and International Tourists are opting for more affordable destinations in other parts of the

World.”

“The Inbound Tour Operators of my state are quite confused with the GST laws; No one has a clear understanding of it. Our Chartered Accountants are also not fully prepared to clarify all our doubts relating to the GST laws. After our continuous demand, India Tourism recently organized a Work Shop in Bhubaneswar on GST for the Tour Operators and Travel Agents but we have still so many doubts to be clarified.” he added while shedding light on GST.



Gagan Sarangi

Madhya Pradesh

Gopal Rai, Chairman, IATO Madhya Pradesh Chapter said “Tourism Industry as we all know is facing lots of challenges but if we talk especially for our State Madhya Pradesh, there are so many ground realities which needs to be taken care of. The biggest challenge we are facing here is people do not want to explore new destinations. Madhya Pradesh has so much to offer to tourists and all destinations of tourism potential have also been well marketed but there are few selected places only where tourists (domestic as well as foreigners) like to visit.

As usual, the shortage of Tourist Guides especially at important tourist destinations is a major concern. This surely has to be worked out and we really need to encourage local educated people to take interest and work as Guides in their known places. The problem of English language in these places has led to this shortage tremendously. Audio Guides have been installed at almost all the major tourist spots but still the Guides are important for major tourist places atleast.

Though Domestic Tourism has definitely increased, but again it is restricted to few places only,

the two Jyotirlingas at Ujjain and Omkareshwar are excellent sites for domestic tourists. Wildlife in Madhya Pradesh is really good and we need to market it more aggressively in domestic market, though the number is increasing but still the interest needs to be created. Inbound market is limited for the state and everyone is doing their best to increase the same.

Our State Tourism Department is also working towards better infrastructure specially Road side amenities, enroute toilets. Proper Tourist Security at Monuments is also been placed.

One nation one tax is definitely a good move and we are all trying to get more clarification on the



Gopal Rai

same.

Each one of us, is working hard for better Tourism and thanks to IATO for taking all these challenges further to upper Govt. levels and helping resolve the major issues.”

Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

Ranga Reddy, Chairman, IATO Andhra Pradesh & Telangana Chapter while commenting on IATO and its annual convention said “Perhaps IATO is the only association duly recognised by Ministry of Tourism, Government of India in terms of incoming foreign tourists. Every Year IATO chooses the Theme of the Industry based on the current trends and through several speakers, interactions, sessions, many solutions were found. Being an annual get together event, many

incoming tour operators and trade partners look forward for such event in a big number. IATO also focuses on the Theme to resolve till the next convention takes place.

Tourism, being service Industry keeps changing the requirement of incoming and outgoing tourists. The demands, technology, political decisions, ground handling requirements change. These changes abruptly effect the tour operators viz Demonitisation, Middle east conflicts, Brexit, GST etc. IATO leadership immediately focuses with

Ministry in Delhi and protects the trade interest ultimately benefiting the Indian Tourist statistics. IATO also takes stock of problems and prospects region wise through their Chapter Chairman’s which was not there earlier. IATO is also signatory in Hotel Classification committees to supervise the best quality overstays are offered to guests. IATO chapters are also called in many state Tourism Policy matters. All this will benefit the IATO members.

Interact regularly with their entire member for lunch meets and chapter chairman’s bridge with the IATO head quarters.



Ranga Reddy

Every year IATO chooses new destination, that’s the best way to highlight and help that member state to get attention internationally.”

Jammu & Kashmir

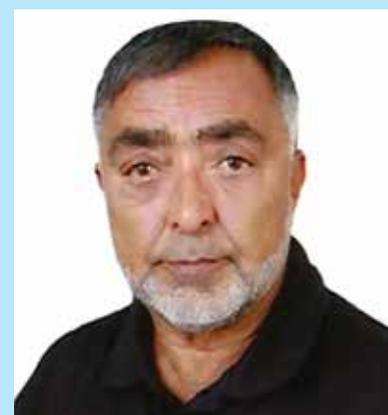
A Khaliq Wangnoo, Chairman IATO JK Chapter shares about the mercy plight of Jammu & Kashmir so called heaven on earth of India and said “ Tourism industry always be a backbone of Kashmir economy. Nearly 70% people of J&K depend directly or indirectly on Tourism business but the challenges we are facing is our national electronic media which make small incidents breaking news and due to that we are left with no business at all. Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh

being border state with China & Pakistan facing some issues near the borders but unfortunately our national media makes it breaking news and every day there is a debate of different politicians from different parties debating on Kashmir which scares Domestic Tourists to visit and so our members had thousands of cancellations due to bad propoganda of the electronic media.”

“We the travel agents of Kashmir and tour operators along with J&K tourism had almost in all over the country road shows as we promote

J& K and only the question from the tourist is:- Is it safe to travel to Kashmir? We invite tourist to come to Kashmir without any fear” he added.

“ Because of GST our Tailor-made packages become very expensive. As Inbound Tour Operator I am requesting J& K Government not to levie GST on Tourism sector for another period of ten years till Tourism revives as we have lot of problems since floods 2014. The tourism has not revived since then. Although we and JK Tourism are making road shows to promote Tourism all over country and attending TTF’s / IITM’s



A Khaliq Wangnoo

regularly. Moreover, if our electronic media will stop making propoganda of Jammu & Kashmir it will be fruitful for us.” He commented.

Punjab

Manmeet Singh, chairman, IATO Punjab chapter said, “Every region and Landscaping has its own beauty it just that a Niche is supposed to be carved with regards to tourism. North India is also blessed with many such attractions related with depictions of historic time, palace, monuments, never ending green agriculture fields, eco friendly clean environments, rivers & canals, mountains to modern cities and lifestyles.

As far as potential in tourism is concerned North India might be one of the leading region of the country in terms of Outbound or Domestic tourism market is concerned, but with relation to Inbound tourism the market share is very less, the scenario is improving with some combined pro active steps taken by Governments and various state tourism boards of North India and the private players of tourism industry, because every state now realizes the potential of tourism and its benefits in term of foreign exchange earning, growth of employments and tourism industries multiplier effect.

As far as Punjab is concerned, In recent times many new attractions have come up in place at Punjab and many historical monuments have been restored all through the state, predominantly at Amritsar, Ludhiana, Patiala, Kapurthala, Anandpur Sahib and Mohali to name a few.

The entire vicinity of Golden temple has been done in a world class manner, so also an entire make over is been done at Durgiana Mandir and the newly done Ram Thirth Temple Complex is supposed to be seen to believe. You will find various new Museums catering to multifaceted periods and Characters of Indian history Like Warm Museum,

Heritage Partition Museum, depiction of Maharaja Ranjit Singh story with Light and Sound effects show.

Punjab has in offering the most modern and Punjab’s most centrally located city, “Ludhiana”, better known as “Manchester of India”. On one side it offers the strong lean age of freedom fighter’s monuments in terms of residential houses of Shaheed Bhagat Singh and Shaheed Sarabha and on the other side the modern Lifestyle city of Hosiery industry provides tourist the best take away souvenirs in terms of quality, variety and whole sale price. So also Mohali / Chandigarh is a blend of historical monuments like Chapan Chri and modern Lifestyle.

If we analyze then the major inbound tourism footfall is at Amritsar, primarily because of “Golden Temple”, and the count of International or domestic tourist arrival for Leisure or religious tourism is always very high, at places Like “Taj Mahal” or “Golden Temple” as they are worldwide known.

In Ludhiana the arrival of foreign tourist is majorly business traveler, because of the presence of many industries, being a hub of hosiery, agro, cycle industry etc

Chandigarh is one of the beautiful city of India and Mohali offers an easy asses in terms of presence of international airport apart from one at Amritsar also.

In Punjab apart from Amritsar and Ludhiana, the princely cities such as Patiala and Kapurthala’s tourism potential should also be tapped, along with Anandpur Sahib and wet Lands.

With a new taxation policy coming in play in India called GST, all the industries in India have been affected, in some positive ways but there are some

concerns also. To my mind the clauses of the GST policy need more deliberation and if the policy makers work hand in hand with the stake holders of each industry, a better and more practical policy can be worked out, which I think is also the endeavour of the government. Because ultimately if the businesses grow in India, then only the economy will be benefited and the objective of Indian government and people’s of India can be achieved.

Tourism as such comprises of many industries because it depends on Larger Planning industries. Like overall infrastructure development units of country to small businesses like eating joints, to rickshaw puller etc, who are visa a versa benefited also with the positive growth of tourism industry. So as industry is also based on many elements, so if there is growth in all terms including more importantly growth in wealth then people will have more money and more money means more spending on availing of tourism facilities. As now it is being observed that people have started availing more holidays, have started to move out more as compared to previous time, still tourism is not the primary need Like food or shelter, so if there is squeeze in income, the people will not spend that much for taking a holiday for themselves and their families.

And one of the major factors affecting one’s income is amount of tax levied on them, so a rationalized tax structure will always give more disposable income, which means more spending, means more tourists, means more generation of money for tourism industry and also foreign exchange for the country.”

By keeping in mind GST impact he said “while the introduction of GST has been welcomed in general terms; certain provisions in GST for the Inbound Tour Operators based in North Eastern States is proving to be



Manmeet Singh

disadvantageous.

Of primary concern is the Basic Exemption Limit for Inbound Tour Operators; while for other states the cap has been fixed at 20 lakhs, for North Eastern States it has been fixed at 10 lakhs. Consequently, any small Tour Operator in our region with annual turnover of, say, Rs. 18 Lakhs will have to add GST while Tour Operators based outside of North East Region with same amount of turnover do not have to add GST. This will put Inbound Tour Operators of North East Region in a clear disadvantage with regard to tour prices. We hope in future review meetings of the GST council this will be discussed and addressed so that Inbound Tour Operators of North East India can have the same privilege as the rest of the country in terms of Basic Exemption Limit for GST.

Another common issue is the non-availability of Input Tax Credit to Inbound Tour Operators. Inbound Tour Operators have to pay GST on Hotel bookings, transport bookings, guide fees etc. whereas they are not allowed to take credit of GST paid on these bookings. On top of that, they have to apply 5% GST on total invoice amount. This cascading affect of GST will increase Tour Price significantly and will make it difficult to close sales in an already competitive market where clients from source markets abroad are finding it increasingly expensive to travel to India.”

T3FS: From the various views of our friends, we can finally conclude that the travel fraternity are facing challenges and unemployment. GST has made India a high priced destination and uneconomical for tourism. With no priority & funds to tourism infrastructure & promotion, tourism will go down and so will create unemployment.

SERVICES AVAILABLE

- DOMESTIC / INTERNATIONAL AIR TICKETING
Very special fares for all Domestic and International sectors
- DOMESTIC / INTERNATIONAL TOURS
All inclusive Tours and Tailor made Packages
- WORLDWIDE HOTEL
From Budgeted to super luxury accommodation
- CORPORATE TRAVEL / MICE
For corporate meetings, business travels, get-togethers, incentive tours and training programs
- GROUP TOURS / FIX DEPARTURES
Fixed departure group tours for all age groups (Specializes in Students & Sr. Citizen groups)
- CAR HIRE
From budgeted Indica to attractive Mercedes for local and outstation destinations
- VISAS / MONEY EXCHANGE
All your visas formalities and exchanging your foreign currency
- INBOUND TOURS
International travelers to show beautiful INDIA and beyond

Simplifying TRAVEL

TRAVEL SOLUTIONS THAT WORKS FOR YOU AND YOUR TRAVEL NEEDS

Do you often hop on and off from one destination to another for Leisure, family holidays or on business? Do you or your family, friends, employees regularly tie your shoes to run the length and breadth of the country on work and Leisure? Are you looking for perfect planning and errorless handling of your travel plans? Then you're on right track on to the experts. From **Leisure travel, Holidays, business travel, RGD makes travel easy, convenient, affordable, and a relaxing affair!**

RGD offers Domestic to International destinations within your budget and handling all your travel needs from **ticketing to accommodation, car hire to transfers, Visa to money exchange, RGD is one stop travel solution company for all your travel needs.** We are also having loads of packages to accommodate almost any need, or you can let us create a custom travel package for you.

Call us – 99535 89890 / 4742 0000

TAMIL NADU – Captivating Splendor of India

Tamil Nadu, a beautiful place with exotic destinations, breezing beaches, enthralling hills and divine shrines. State has infinite number of reasons for relishing good times in the lap of nature with pristine beaches, serene waterfalls, soothing hill stations, amazing wildlife and other divine destinations.

• T3FS Desk

The state has diversified segments of tourism that is beyond the imagination of one to treat life out of hectic times of regular lifestyle and have the best of getaways. Immaculate islands, dense forest areas and exotic coastal lines let the spirit be set free with their comforting rationales.

Tamil Nadu is an appropriate destination for the couples who have found solace in each other and are looking out for their quality time in wonders of nature. With its magnetic hills, beaches, wildlife, botanical gardens, spiritual destinations, mangroves, heritage architectures and natural habitat, it becomes

an eternal memoir of one's life.

SPLENDORS OF TAMIL NADU:

COONOOR:

The beauty of Nilgiri hills make Coonoor, one of the treasure destinations of Tamil Nadu and an unavoidable reason for exploring nature's wonder. The destination is the most fitted one for the newly wedded couples in beginning the best of their times together. The hill station of

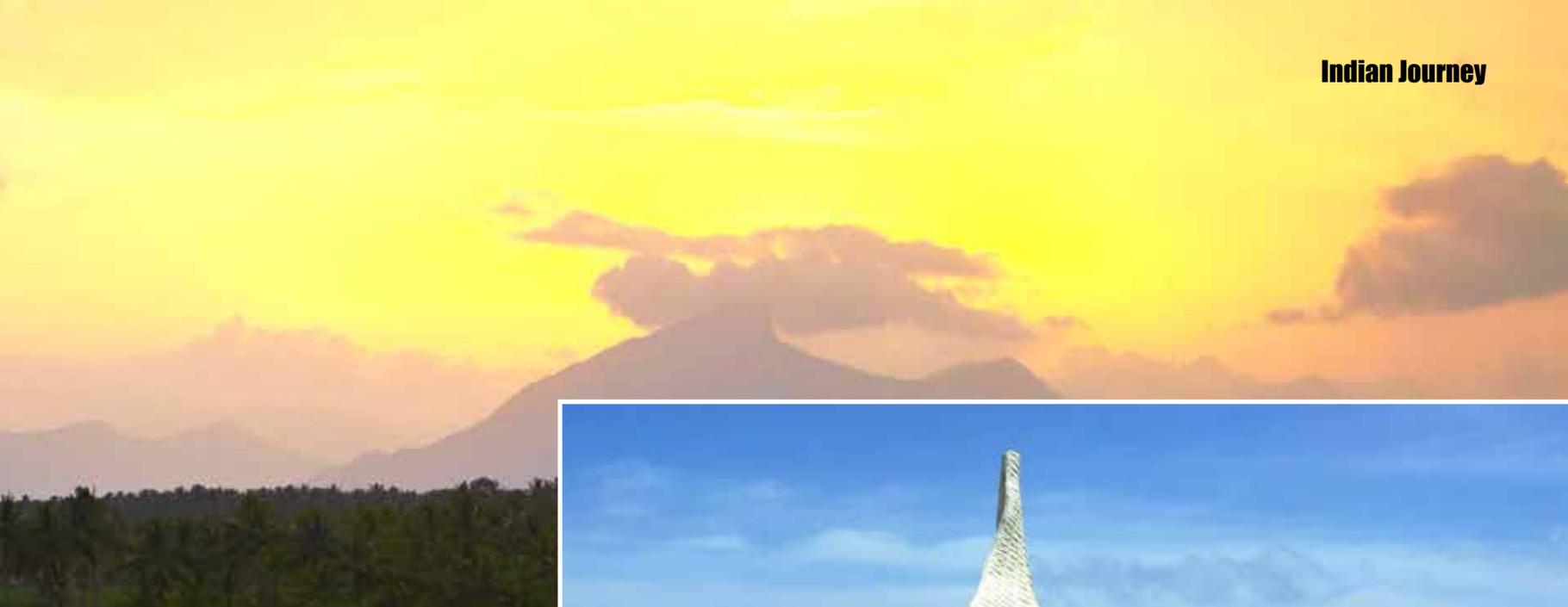


Coonoor is smaller than the very famous Ooty yet its calmness and serenity makes it must visit check list in life. This place has exceptional heritage accommodations for a royal feel as well as forest cottages. Plantations, mountain views, quiet milieu at its upper hill are magnificent treat to eyes whereas the lower hill is a busy town. Other attractions of the destination are Catherine falls, Lamb rock, Law falls and Sim's park.

MEGH MALAI:

Meghmalai is the wavy hill of Tamil Nadu state. The destination is named as the hills of clouds. The spectacular sights and exotic wildlife of this destination make it unbelievable and treasure experience for lifetime. The cool and windy mountain in





KANYAKUMARI:

Kanyakumari is the mainland of Indian Ocean which is the southernmost tip of nation. Surrounded by majestic Hills and the plains bordered by colourful sea-shores, fringed with coconut trees and paddy fields, here and there are few elevated patches of red cliffs with undulating valleys and plains between the mountainous terrain and the sea which make it awestruck. It is a beautiful destination to be explored with mesmerizing view of sunrise and sunset. Moreover, on full moon day its eternal view can be treasured in heart.

Malai is the tallest hill of the state with exquisite monkey falls, Anna Malai wildlife sanctuary and sparkling dams. The fascination of Anna Malai is the dense natural vegetation endowed with finest variety of flora and fauna. The wildlife beauty of Anna Malai adds grace and splendor to the hill station which is its centre part attraction. The variants of fauna include primarily elephants, sloth bear, tigers, black headed Oriole and green pigeons. Lush green grass hills, waterfalls, teak forests, apt weather conditions, reservoirs and beauty of nature make this destination a lifetime experience.

the Western Ghats is a lovely surrounding with rich variety of flora and fauna. The perfect weather and panoramic view of Megh Malai can be perfect escapade for couples who have recently tied the knot to explore life.

ANNA MALAI HILLS:

Anna Malai hills are the elephant hills which is located in the Coimbatore district of state. Anna

HOW TO REACH

BY AIR

- Chennai International Airport
- Coimbatore International Airport
- Tiruchapalli International Airport
- Madurai International Airport

BY RAIL:

- Chennai Central and Egmore
- Madurai
- Coimbatore
- Thanjavur
- Salem Junction

BY ROAD:

- Private bus operators
- Inter-state buses



Breaking the Myth

Active Holidays, established in the year 2008, has been on the right track by focusing on various experience activities instead of unflavored tours and aims to grow business for the upcoming year, reveals Wasim Shaikh, Director - Active Holidays.

Active Holidays has completed eight years and have grown their market share by reaching out to the right audience, tour operator and travel agents in India. "The travelers are now expecting for experiences beyond City tour & beaches. We aim to provide a safe, responsible and enjoyable experience in Mumbai & Goa. We take visitors inside the 'real & local', helping them to understand the city's unique culture and way of life", he says.

Deriving from modest beginnings from offering ground handling services, which generally include transport, guide, and assistance, it now boasts of new experience activities. "Offering real experiences, as we take the back roads – sometime on foot and sometimes on good ol' tuk-tuks or trains; stopping at a local home for cooking lesson, stop for a street food tasting session, glide past little known villages, soak in the scenery, Home stay experience, chat with the locals – adding more value to the travelers experience", Shaikh adds.



A Blissful Retirement

Today retirement is no longer considered a bane. In fact, after years of hand-holding kids, routine office humdrums and a stressful life, senior citizens take retirement with a brush of pleasantries and look forward to a new 'journey.'

Senior citizens no longer want to sit on rocking chairs or stare at traffic go by from their balconies. In the age of technology and the e-world they are as connected to the new trends and want to get on to the express way and make it their new way of life.

Pilgrimage tours or hosting grandkids are

a thing of the past. Today senior citizens, especially the young at heart want to explore and experience a different world least mindful of the costs.

At Mahindra Holidays, we have curated a special product, Bliss, to cater to the unique needs of senior citizens and provide them with a safe and trusted hospitality partner. This recently launched, 10-year membership product, assists senior citizens with special services such as dedicated helpdesk, concierge, holiday booking, airport transfers, etc.



Women Achievers of Past 200 Years

Austrian Cultural Forum of the Austrian Embassy, New Delhi together with Delhi Tourism has embarked upon to present an unusual touring Exhibition which attempts to project the life stories of important Austrian & Indian women of the past 200 years. Women have far too often been forgotten, overlooked and marginalised irrespective of period, geographical borders and cultures. But yet their lives and their works have been found quite exemplary and source of growth, development, expansion and

improvement for the society in general.

Projecting these unsung women Champions from Austria and India together in full knowledge of inevitable gaps, the exhibition "Inspiring Women - Austria-India" (Calliope Austria) representing the almost the same period was inaugurated in New Delhi on August 25, 2017 jointly by H.E. Mrs Brigitte Oeppinger-Walchshofer, Ambassador of Austria and Ms. Varsha Joshi, Secretary (Tourism), Govt. of Delhi.



BOHEMIA- A Journey Towards Success

Tourism Enterprises conducted successful roadshow in Delhi on 16 Aug'17 and 18 Aug'17 in Mumbai for promoting Balkan countries by DMC BOHEMIA based in Sofia, Bulgaria. There was overwhelming response from Travel agents and tour operators both at Delhi and Mumbai to learn about new product from lesser known countries. Their partner in Balkan countries BOHEMIA were present during the roadshow and gave useful informations to all agents. Three members team, Mr Bayko Baykov (GM), Mr Ventsi and Mr Stefan from BOHEMIA along with Mr. Ravi Gosain (MD- Tourism Enterprises) and

Mr Kumar Utkarsh (Senior manager) were present during the roadshows. BOHEMIA is over 15 years old company with offices in Sofia (Bulgaria), Skopje (Macedonia) and Belgrade (Serbia). They have already handled few Indian tourist and very well known to the needs of Indian Travellers. During the roadshow BOHEMIA announced the FAM trip for Indian agents in the month of October, which will give them first hand knowledge for Balkan countries. Tourism Enterprises represents them in India and will be the point of contact for all information regarding the DMC and their products.





Kairali-The Ayurvedic Healing Village
Palakkad, Kerala (India)

Treatment Packages Offered at Kairali-The Ayurvedic Healing Village

Special Ayurvedic Health Programmes for Weight Loss (Duration: 14 to 21 nights)

Unique individualized program's are created, with external herbal treatments and internal ayurvedic medicines to burn excess fat, to tone up muscles and to reduce weight naturally.

Kairali's Special Package to Remove Stress & Strain (Duration: 7, 14 or 21 days)

Special ayurvedic massages with formulated herbal oils and steam bath to remove stress and strain for one to lead a fatigue-free life.

Kairali's Panchakarma Therapy (Five Actions) (Duration: 14 to 21 nights)

Ayurveda's most time tested and well know treatment (5 procedures) to cure major health problems which acts by removing the diseases from the roots. So that the chances of recurrence of that diseases is negligible.

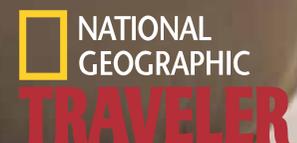
Proven Remedies for Arthritis, Rheumatism & Spondylitis (Duration: 14 or 21 days)

A combination of various treatments & internal medication help regain lost mobility & subsides pain thus assisting one to live a pain free life once again.

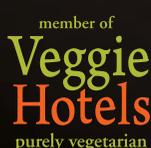
WE ALSO SPECIALISE IN TREATMENTS OF

- ✿ Rejuvenation Therapy to Restore Vigor and Vitality
- ✿ Treatment for Sinusitis & Migraine
- ✿ Arthritis & Spondylitis
- ✿ Neurological Disorders
- ✿ Treatment for Diabetes
- ✿ Skin Diseases and Disorders

Kairali-The Ayurvedic Healing Village
One among 50 Top wellness destinations of the world



Our Partners



+91-9555156156

info@kairali.com

www.ktahv.com or www.kairaliyoga.com

Ethiopian Refurbished its Boeing 767-300 ER

Ethiopian Airlines Group, announced that it has fully refurbished its Boeing 767-300 ER fleet and availed for service on its India, Middle East and Africa destinations.

The newly refurbished airplane is fitted with brand new full flat-bed seats in Cloud Nine, modern IFE with high resolution 17 inches screen and in-seat power outlets (inflight entertainment), lighting and other modern cabin

products. Customers in the main cabin will also enjoy new seats, multiple channels of inflight audio and video entertainments accessible with their own mobile devices / tablets.

Availing the right fleet mix for the mission,

Ethiopian Airlines has currently deployed 92 of the youngest (five years average fleet age) and most modern fleet, with future plans to receive nineteen A350-900s, four B787-900s and five Q400s.



As a customer focused and market driven airline, we are always committed to avail unmatched travel experience for our customers. We have invested more than USD 6 million to retrofit our B-767-300 ER fleet, which will surely provide more choice and greater comfort to our customers. By December 2017, all our B767 fleet will be fitted with flat-bed seats in Cloud Nine with access to a range of video programming available for wireless streaming in all cabins. I would like to congratulate our engineering and maintenance team at Ethiopian MRO for the job well done and wish to pledge to our customers that we shall always strive to ensure their extra comfort every time they fly with us.



Tewolde GebreMariam, CEO, Ethiopian Group

Cathay Dragon inks for single-aisle Aircraft

Cathay Dragon has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU), preparatory to execute formal legal documentation, for the acquisition of 32 Airbus A321neo aircraft.

The MOU, signed between the Cathay Pacific Group and Airbus in Toulouse, France, is valued at approximately HK\$31.7 billion at current list prices. It is intended to see Cathay Dragon's single-aisle

fleet replaced and expanded from 2020.

The new aircraft, which are scheduled to be delivered between 2020 and 2023, are intended to replace Cathay Dragon's existing single-aisle fleet of 23 aircraft, comprising 15 Airbus A320s

and eight Airbus A321s. The airline, which also operates 24 wide-body Airbus A330s, serves 56 destinations in Asia, including 28 cities in mainland China.

Cathay Dragon is committed to provide customers with a superior travel experience while at the same time enhancing the efficiency of its operations. We look forward to introduce the new aircraft into our fleet and expanding the reach of the Cathay Pacific Group to more customers.

The intention to purchase these 32 environmentally-friendly aircraft will allow us to add new destinations to Cathay Dragon's network. We also intend to increase frequencies on some of our most popular routes in order to provide our customers with more travel choices and convenience. Having focused on modernizing and expanding Cathay Pacific's long-haul fleet in recent times, this is an exciting new chapter for Cathay Dragon following last year's rebranding to enhance a seamless travel experience for our customers.



Rupert Hogg, CEO, Cathay Pacific and Chairman, Cathay Dragon



John Leahy, Airbus Chief Operating Officer, Customers

Airbus is proud to have been selected to supply Cathay Dragon's future single-aisle fleet. This is another major endorsement of the A321neo as the aircraft of choice for airlines in the middle-of-the-market segment.

The A321neo offers the lowest possible operating costs, longest range capability and most spacious cabin in its class. It will be the perfect aircraft for Cathay Dragon as it builds on its success as one of Asia's leading regional carriers.

British Airways Focus on Excellence

British Airways has added Graham's Six Grapes, the Port favoured by Sir Winston Churchill, to its business class (Club World) drinks menu starting this month.

Back then it was known as Graham's Vintage Character Port and was served to his guests at Chartwell House, his country home. The historic Port has a rich bouquet of ripe plums and cherries and pairing particularly well with the desserts and cheeses on board since August, in particular the roasted white chocolate and hazelnut tart and the cheddar and camembert with spiced mulled apple jelly.

Additionally, this Autumn British Airways will be launching a new restaurant-style premium dining service in Club World, with display trolleys allowing customers to select dishes from a choice of freshly prepared starters and desserts served on beautiful new table settings. The airline also announced a sleep partnership with The White Company, the British retailer will supply bedding and amenity kits in Club World to ensure customers get a good night's sleep in the sky.

The new style dining and bedding, is part of British Airways' multi-million pound investment plan to benefit its customers with a focus on excellence in the premium cabins and more choice and quality for all.

Four hundred million pounds will be spent on Club World with an emphasis on improved catering and sleep, and a new seat in the future. At Heathrow a First Wing check-in area with direct security and lounge access has launched, and lounges around the airline's network are to be revamped and improved. The Club Europe cabin has also been introduced on UK domestic services and all customers can look forward to the latest generation Wi-Fi across British Airways' long-haul and short-haul fleets over the next two years.



On this Colin Talbot, British Airways' head of catering said, "Port is incredibly popular in Club World - last year alone nearly 41,000 bottles were served to our business class customers- so we are delighted to be adding Graham's Six Grapes to the menu. At altitude it holds its flavour well thanks to its good structure and with the long lingering finish, it will wonderfully complement the dessert and cheese selection on flights".

Jet Airways Partnership With Airbnb

Taking another industry-first initiative, Jet Airways, India's premier international airline, announced a partnership with Airbnb - the world's leading community-driven hospitality company.

The partnership will allow Jet Airways to offer a wide spectrum of rapidly growing, global hospitality choices to its guests from India, strengthening its portfolio of choices for stay that the carrier currently offers its guests.

The partnership will not only offer a strong and differentiated value to Jet Airways' guests, but also give momentum to the growth of Airbnb's footprint in the Indian market by establishing a deeper connect with the new-age Indian traveller, who is increasingly seeking unique and interesting experiences while travelling both in India as well as around the world.

Jayaraj Shanmugam, Chief Commercial Officer, Jet Airways said "An increasing number of Indian travellers are embracing the fresh and highly personalised experiences that a platform like Airbnb offers. Our focus on being innovative and offering differentiated travel experiences enables us to anticipate the changing needs



of our guests and recognize trends much earlier than the market, thus allowing us to offer exciting travel related initiatives. We are delighted to be the first Indian airline to partner Airbnb, and look forward to create more of such innovative experiences for our guests."

Amanpreet Bajaj, Country Manager – India, Airbnb said "Airbnb's philosophy is centered on providing unique experiences to modern day travellers, who seek newer and more interesting ways to travel. Indian travellers have become more decisive and are keen to break

away from conventional means of travel and accommodation. Airbnb has been committed to building local partnerships which enable us to strengthen our connection with the Indian audience. With this partnership, Jet Airways fliers who are also Airbnb travellers will be able to enjoy the added-value they receive from being associated with two dynamic brands."

Trends of wedding

Marriages are most close to heart memoir for a person and reasons to celebrate life with closed ones. For the same Hospitality industry contributes as a major part to make these memories more beautiful and special.

• **Vedika Sharma**

By keeping in mind the wedding trends we focused on the aspects of hospitality on the wedding themes,

cuisines, décor, venues and the customized wedding specialties of the hotel. Here we have on desk General Manager's

of hotels from different corners of India to enlighten us about the basic trends of wedding.

Taj Ram Bagh Palace

Manish Gupta, General Manager – Taj Ram Bagh Palace said “The royalties are known for their protocol and standard of living.

As we know Rambagh was the former residence of the Royals of Jaipur however the traditions are still being followed right from arrival into the palace with a beautiful troupe of decorated animals, traditional folk Dance Performances along with Kacchi Ghodi (Artificial Horse), dhol bankiya performance. Adding it with flower shower and serving the palace special welcome drink “Litchi Royale”. The guests are escorted by the personal butlers to their beautifully decorated Rooms/Suites. Rambagh Palace offers 78 palatial rooms including aesthetically restored suites, which were the chambers of the former Maharaja. Moreover, use of rich fabrics and silk drapes drawn from the colorful art and warm hues of the state of Rajasthan.

Palaces are basically known for their open grandeur space, so as we. Rambagh Palace offers you 4 beautiful lawns, 2 open terraces and a convention centre as well for your banquet hall needs. Starting from Sunken Lawn which has a beautiful fountains that can take upto 200-250 guests. Adjacent to the sunken lawn, Mughal lawn is another magnificent location which can be utilized for your dinner/lunch event and take upto 300 guests. Another beautiful option would be Panghat Lawn which can take easily upto 450-500 guests and also it offers you “Gazebo” which is undoubtedly a beautiful location for Pheras.”

Taj Ram Bagh Palace offer customized Chef crafted tastefully designed menus for each of function. Its Royal kitchens specializes in the following cuisines – Indian- Rajasthani, Punjabi, Awadhi, Hyderabadi, Italian, European, French, Oriental, Thai, Vietnamese, Japanese and Mexican.

“At Rambagh Palace we provide royal wedding set ups for events from exquisite table décor to the beautiful floral setups in the lawn. We suggest our hotel vendors for the photography and wedding decorations however guest may get their own vendors for the wedding decoration. We do not allow catering from outside at the Palace.” He added with respect to the external wedding planners, photographer and caterers for the designing, coverage and facilitating guests.

Taj offer following themes at Rambagh Palace that can be customized as per the events:

1. Village Fair Theme- Mehndi Lunch –village theme setting is created with bamboo huts, benches and stalls. Villagers mingle with guests and display their traditional skills of puppet making, “pichwai” paintings, rice carving, lac bangles, henna, palmist, etc. Guests can make purchases and settle their dues directly with the vendors. A complete village is recreated with local entertainment, folk dancers, traditional Jaipur bandhej table linen, assuring a rustic Indian village experience for the guests

2. Rajput Wedding- A traditional Rajput wedding ceremony where group members participate as the “baraat” i.e. the bridegroom’s family and friends, who form the wedding party. Guests decide one of their members as bride and groom and a mock wedding is conducted. If however guests wish to get married actually, a Registrar of Weddings and / or a Chappel Priest can be arranged. The wedding procession is arranged with a local band, the horse mounted groom, floral arrangements and other elements of a North Indian wedding. The local priest performs the wedding rites and also explains the guests, the significance of each ritual. The Rajput wedding is perhaps the most stunning and essentially a large formatted theme for large groups / incentives etc. The Palace is well illuminated and so is the function area, complete with a stage, floral backdrop, fairy lights etc.

3. Polo theme – Lunch or Dinner- On arrival, Guests are welcomed by a troupe of Lancers, on Ceremonially attired horses ridden by cavalymen, in their ceremonial costumes and a Fourteen-piece military pipers band. Guests are then escorted to there seats in the illuminated garden. The Pipers Band entertains the guests with a Marching display playing various Military tunes & marching music while the drinks and starters are served. This is followed by a performance by a Marwari Dancing Horse with traditional folk dances and lives tabla and sitar. The venue is appropriately accentuated with polo lances, lance bases & pennants, haystacks, saddles & bridles, flags, polo sticks, bar tables on polo sticks. Royal Carriage, which would also double for the Bar amongst other Polo props and smartly attired staff in Polo uniform gives the soul to the evening. There

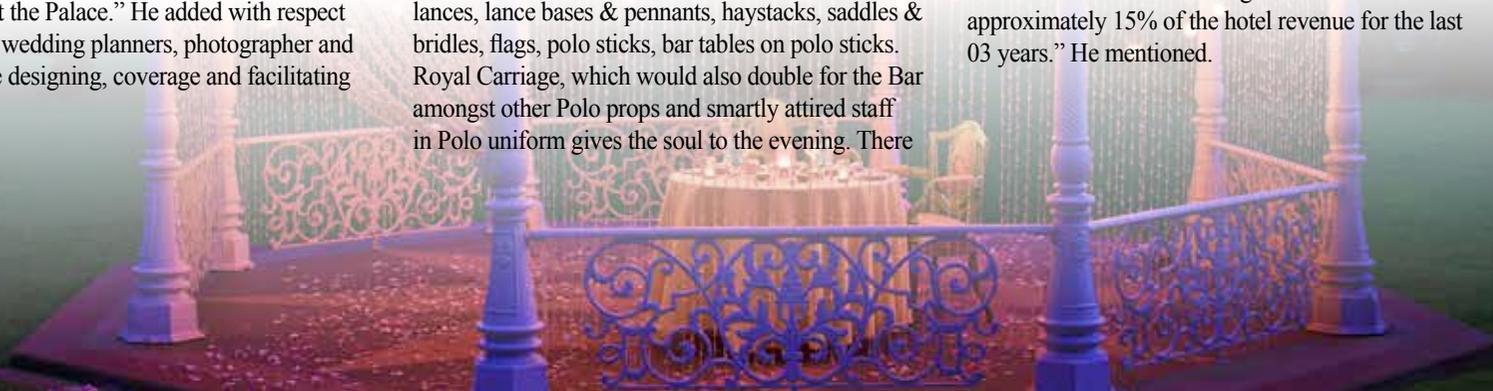
would be regalia of horses placed in paddocks behind the dinner venue to create a backdrop. The Lunch or dinner would include a delectable array of Indian and Continental cuisine.

4. Hawamahal Theme dinner- With Gardens and Palace backdrop, a luxurious marquee sets itself for a majestic experience. Guests are welcomed by two, gaily dressed hostesses who shower rose petals on guests, while they enter the dinner venue, where a personal butler welcomes all guests with a glass of sparkling wine. Once cocktails are over, guests would be ushered to the tent for an exciting and exclusive dining experience, befitting the Palace. A small group of local artistes present soft India classical music. Other attractions on the evening are a traditional folk dance performance during the cocktails’ session, a complete meena bazaar i.e. a small market set up with a display of Rajasthani handicrafts, locally made artifacts, a fortune teller, mehndi wali, choori wali etc. Guests can make purchases and settle their dues directly with the vendors. This theme is best suited for the post wedding dinner with all close family members or relatives.

“The destination weddings have contributed to approximately 15% of the hotel revenue for the last 03 years.” He mentioned.



Manish Gupta



Orchid Mumbai

Orchid Mumbai is specialized in various themes such as Maharashtrian, South Indian, Gujarati and many more. But core expertise lies in customization, as themes are mostly pre-decided by the guests and staff make sure that they live up to their desires which involves lot of customization. They mainly customized themes as per guest's needs and requirements.

The Orchid Mumbai has been renowned in the market for the last two decades for its food, especially the Indian and Continental. In Indian food we have different variants of cuisines such as Rajasthani, Gujarathi, Marwari, South Indian and many more. This season, we would prefer sticking to our strengths in giving the best to the guests.

While commenting on external wedding planners, photographer and caterers for the designing, coverage and facilitating guests Varun Sahani said "Yes and NO as well, as it completely depends on the guests need and requirements. If the guests demand the external wedding planners we do have a panel of wedding planners (vendors), photographers, videographers, decorators etc and suggest the same to the guests. We

do have our in-house specialist team as well if the guest leaves it to our discretion."

"We specialized in various themes such as Maharashtrian, South Indian, Gujarati and many more. As said earlier we customised the theme as per the guest needs, hence it's too early to comment on this as there is no specifications received from our guests as yet." He stated with the focus on pre and post marital ceremonies.

"The wedding ceremonies definitely have added a good impact to our overall total hotel revenue in the last few years. Earlier we were known as MICE Hotel with lot of conferences and banqueting space as we are located close to the airport. However over the time, we took a conscious decision to enter into socials and have designed a different package to customize each guests need. In the last two years, in terms of wedding revenue viz-a-viz hotel revenue, we have doubled our capacity and overall contribution has gone from 4% to 6% in the total revenue." He added with respect to the revenue from weddings.

"We have a unique venue called 'The Upper Deck'; it is one of its kind venues

that can hold up to 800-1000 guests with an area of 13,000 sq ft. It is located on 8th floor, a venue with a rooftop that gives a panoramic view of the airport (360°) which cannot be replicated. We also have banquet halls like Chambers and Prive, which can cater to 200-500 capacity of guests." He commented while focusing on venue.



Varun Sahani

The Zuri White Sands, Goa Resort & Casino

While discussing on the specialty of the hotel in respect to the themes of wedding for this season Rajendran Menon, General Manager, The Zuri White Sands, Goa Resort & Casino said "As most of the weddings that we do are Indian/ NRI weddings, the wedding ceremony itself (pheras) will be traditional Indian affair with the Indian floral themes and mandap. Over the wedding dates for functions like the Sangeet/ mehendi/ pool party, the themes can be anything ranging from Nirvana to carnival, halloween etc based on the clients requirements."

"There is no set cuisine for the season, it is all based on the clients requirements, the most popular cuisines sought by clients are Indian, Chinese, Asian, Mediterranean, Mexican, Continental & Italian. We offer guests the flexibility of choosing their event planners for décor and photography. The food and beverage is catered entirely by the hotel." He stated with respect to cuisine and flexibility of weddings.

While shedding light on pre and post wedding ceremonies he said, "Pre wedding ceremonies will entail Lunch pool parties that often break the

monotony of all the rituals. Mehendi and Sangeet functions are held usually a night prior to the wedding date. Smaller functions like the haldi, Ganesh Stapna, Sainth functions involving the immediate family are done in the morning on the day of the wedding and then the wedding itself followed by reception."

"Weddings account for almost 20% of hotel revenues and one of the most important segments that not only drive room but food and beverage and other miscellaneous revenues." he emphasis on the revenue generate from weddings.

"We have two main indoor halls usually used for evening functions as music outdoors is allowed only till 10:00 pm as per govt. regulations. Both these halls also have a prefunction area and open lawns attached which offers seamless transition to move back indoors after the 10:00pm deadline.

We also have two pools at the property and one can be made exclusive for pool parties or other small events like a mehendi or hi tea.

The wedding ceremony itself culminates at the Horizon lawns overlooking the beautiful Arabian sea



Rajendran Menon

- one of the most beautiful outdoor venue especially in case one wants to have a sunset wedding." He mentioned with respect to distinctive venue options in terms of their décor and occupancy.

Royal Tulip Kufri

Rahul Kanwar, GM, Royal Tulip Kufri, Shimla shed light on themes of wedding for this season. Royal Tulip Kufri is the only international five star luxury resort in the picturesque Himalayas. Standing out amongst the stunning Himalayan mountain ranges Royal Tulip Kufri is an ideal venue for “destination wedding in the Hills”. The hotel is designed to take full advantage of beautiful mountainous views and vistas. The hotel offers Ballroom of size 8000 sq. ft. with pre-function area, an ideal place for guests to mingle and celebrate any wedding functions. The focal point of the banquet operation at Royal Tulip, Kufri is designed to cater to all sort of theme weddings like Valentine Weddings, Floral weddings & Royal weddings.

The hotel also boasts a dedicated roof top entrance of over 10,500 square feet of open terrace for wedding functions. It's the ideal location and setting at the hill station makes Royal Tulip a preferred venue to plan weddings.

“We have a chef-curated menu for weddings specials which ranges from Indian, Oriental, Mediterranean, Continental, English & Pahadi cuisines. We also do customised menu for clients

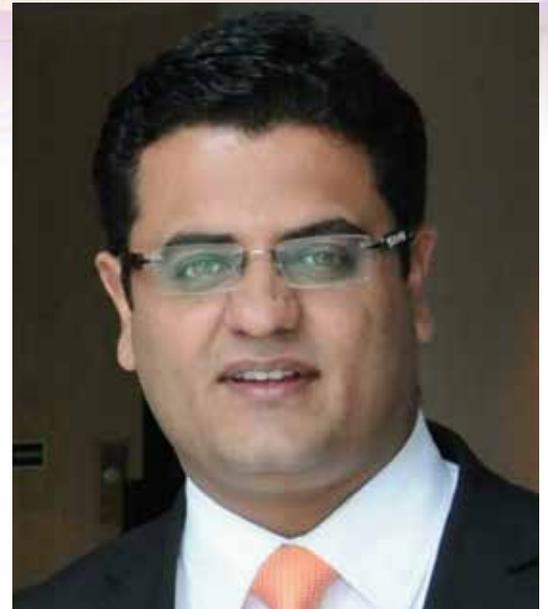
if they are looking at any particular cuisine or style of cooking for their guests at the wedding.” He mentioned with respect to cuisine.

While commenting on external wedding planners, photographer and caterers for the designing, coverage and facilitating guests he said “Yes we do hire wedding planners, photographers, outsource catering vendors who are on our panel for wedding.”

“The theme of the wedding season is largely influenced by the Indian film industry. Any latest movie, celebrity wedding, popular songs, apparel etc act as influencers. We offer services for all pre and post marital ceremonies be it Roka, Engagement, Mehendi, Wedding & Receptions”. He stated with respect to pre and post ceremonies of wedding.

“Wedding plays a big role for revenue in a Hotel as it includes Rooms, banquets and F&B; also the numbers are much larger to cater to. Royal Tulip Kufri is a new property that was launched recently and we have been receiving good number queries and have done some beautiful weddings at the hotel.” He added.

“Royal Tulip Kufri offers Imperial ballroom



Rahul Kanwar

of size 8000 sq.ft with capacity of 700 - 800 pax with Wedding decor. The hotel also boasts terrace with over 10,500 sq.ft space with a capacity to accommodate of 900 -1000 pax.” He focused on venue of the hotel.

Planet Hollywood Beach Resort Goa

Anand Chatterjee, General Manager, Planet Hollywood Beach Resort Goa, shed light on the theme of wedding, “More and more couples are deciding to conduct the wedding in their dream setting and exotic locations play a big role in creating that aura. From great photo-ops to great food and beverage experience, Planet Hollywood Beach Resort, Goa offers a selection of stylish accommodations, including luxury themed rooms & suites which are perfect for a destination wedding.

Our presidential villa with uninterrupted views of the white sands is available. This is a one of a kind accommodation with 2 halls, 3 bedrooms, outdoor open shower and Jacuzzi creating enough space for a memorable time.

We conduct bespoke weddings only with every detail designed and curate by the guest in discussion with us. From exotic buffet to dramatic arrival of the groom on parachute, everything is possible.”

“Every wedding is unique - The look, feel and vibe at the resort are a unique experience for any wedding group.

We have a dedicated team of specialists who will customize moments based on each family cultural & dietary preference right from menu design, showstopper wedding cakes to floral

arrangements.

Preferred cuisine is usually Indian fare with some Western and definitely local Goan influences.” He commented on cuisine.

For external wedding planners, photographer and caterers for the designing, coverage and facilitating guests he said “All guests are free to work with wedding planners and other vendors of their choice post acceptance of the resort guidelines, terms & conditions.”

“Pool parties are serious business - especially welcome way to beat the scorching summers!

With a destination like Goa seeing the influx of weddings, a pool party is usually held immediately after check in and used to set pace for the fun & frolic & celebrations to follow.

Hollywood / red carpet themes are popular at our resort for Sangeet functions and blend in well with the resort’s glamorous set up as well.” He mentioned with respect to pre and post wedding ceremonies.

The property opened with a destination wedding 2 years back and since then we have seem considerable success & growth in this segment.

“Cinema Paradiso, is our themed ballroom with an area of 3425 square feet and fully equip



Anand Chatterjee

with an in built state of the art audio-visual equipment.

In addition there are outdoor venue options including a Lawn overlooking the beach to provide a ‘Goa destination wedding’ feel.

Both venues are able to comfortably accommodate between 250 – 500 guests.” He focused on wedding venue décor and occupancy.

JW Marriott Mussoorie Walnut Grove Resort & Spa

Amidst the exotic ranges of Himalayas, JW Marriott Mussoorie Walnut Grove Resort & Spa is a splendid location for an unforgettable wedding celebration.

Experience opulence embodied within our 4200 square feet of banquet space. With a variety of entertainment options, a majestic spread of delectable cuisines and outdoor venues offering a splendid view of the Gharwal range of Himalayas, this is an ideal place for a resplendent ceremony.

Expansive indoor ballroom, picture perfect outdoor venues, artistically crafted rooms and intricate décor options to add special touches ensure a fascinating wedding revelry transcending your expectations.

While talking about the preferred cuisine style Pratyush Anand, Director of Sales and Marketing said “Our culinary team offers various menu options for the wedding and preceding functions. The chefs work closely with guests or their Maharaj to ensure a delectable feast throughout the wedding. For cocktails and pre-wedding functions such as haldi and Mehendi, our team can recommend numerous specialty set-ups, cheese and champagne set-up, a bar with chef specials, a Mexican appetizer set-up or a pan-Asian appetizer set-up. Each option is specially designed to make the wedding special, and cater to guests’ needs.

We also offer unique dining options with meals in the lap of nature and USP of Garhwal – the Garhwali

cuisine. Our chefs can recommend Garhwali delicacies to be added to the menu. “

“Yes. We have a panelist and vendors are recommended on the basis of requirement and budget of the guest.” He added for external wedding planners, photographer and caterers for the designing, coverage and facilitating guests.

“Our main USP is ‘Destination Wedding against the backdrop of Garhwal Himalayas’. All pre and post weddings functions – Haldi, Mehendi, Cocktails, Reception are given an edge with quirky themes and décor.

Game of thrones, Star wars, Jharoka, Pahadi, Colorsplash, Vibrant Hues, Champagne and Cheese, Victorian, Rajputana and some of the themes already shortlisted by our guests for remainder of this year and early next year.” He shed light on the wedding ceremony.

Venues overlooking the Gharwal range of Himalayas, make the perfect setting for a destination wedding

- The Grand Orchard Ballroom, 3,300 sq. ft., includes three break-out rooms and a spacious pre-function area, Azalia Court, to perfectly curate experiences with flawless coordination and unique event design.

- The Magnolia Court, named after the magnolia plant, is a colorful open-air space, perfect for pre-wedding functions like mehendi and haldi.



Pratyush Anand

- The Trout House Grill & Bar, restaurant offers a scenic outdoor seating for theme parties and cocktails
- JW Lawns is an ideal location for outdoor parties and reception, overlooking the Gharwal range of Himalayas.
- JW Terrace, our walnut grove that offers breathtaking view of the resort is perfect for your Pheras and Jaimala

Taj Goa

Vincent Ramos - Area Director Taj Goa and General Manager Taj Exotica Resort & Spa while speaking about the specialty of the hotel with respect to the themes of wedding for this season said “With 35000 sq feet of outdoor banqueting space overlooking the Arabian Sea, as well as 8000 sq feet of indoor banqueting space, Taj Exotica Goa is an ideal wedding destination.”

“Being a part of the renowned Taj Group of hotels we offer a choice of cuisines ranging from various parts of India to around the world.” He commented on the cuisine.

While emphasising on external wedding planners, photographer and caterers for the designing, coverage and facilitating guests he said “Yes we do we have a panel of wedding planners and facilitate between guests and the

planners.”

“We cater to various themes in terms of deco and cuisine to match and actually build themes and menus around guest requirements.” He mentioned with respect to post and pre-wedding ceremonies.

“Weddings have been approximately 15% of the hotel revenue.” He added.

Focused on the distinctive venue options, hotel catering in terms of décor and occupancy he stated “We have a couple of beach side venues which overlook the Arabian sea and since the resort is on the west coast, makes an ideal setting for a sunset ceremony. The pool side lawn is another outdoor venue which is stunning location for an outdoor party.”



Vincent Ramos

Swosti Group

Priyanath Behera, VP-cum-CFO, Swosti Group shed light on the specialty of the hotel with respect to the theme of wedding for this season “At Swosti Group, we understand every little detail that gets into making wedding celebration a special one. Starting from the size of the banquet halls to the décor, the ambience, the music and the food, Swosti Group offers complete wedding management services that include venue and the guest management, reception parties and even well decorated suits / rooms for the newlyweds with the finest possible attention. Not many in Bhubaneswar or outside can boast of managing wedding affairs the way Swosti Group do it at Swosti Premium, the highest room inventory and the largest Convention Venue in Eastern India, Swosti Grand, the boutique hotel, Gopalpur Palm Resort and recently added Luxury Resort “Swosti Chilika Resort” on the banks of Chilika Lake are the perfect wedding destinations in Odisha.

While talking about the cuisine he said “An Indian Wedding is incomplete without serving finger-licking food to the honorable guests. It will not be wrong to say that most of us eagerly wait for the moment that when we will have delicious food, whose aroma has filled the venue. In order to host a grand wedding, Swosti

Group of Hotels, every guest will experience them all from the appetizers’ to main course & ended up with Delicious dessert.”

For external wedding planners, photographer and caterers for the designing, coverage and facilitating guests he commented “Swosti Group has empanelled professional photographers, event management organizations to cater to the needs of our guests with regard to the decoration, coverage of their wedding ceremony etc., according to their budget and expectations.”

“We at Swosti Group believe it is our responsibility to make the wedding and reception party of our valued guests an event that is filled with joyous memories and something that would fondly remembered by our guests. Starting from the selection of venue, venue décor, accommodation, Honeymoon Package, etc., Swosti Group aims at accomplishing this through excellent negotiations, detailed planning, smooth execution, sumptuous food and most importantly the warm hospitality of our highly experienced staff which makes our guests ‘Feel Home, away from the Home’” he focused on pre and post wedding ceremonies.

“In the past 3 years time we had touched up the highest no of wedding happening in Swosti



Priyanath Behera

group of Hotel, in compare with the other same category of hotels in the city. According to the city chart Swosti Taken up 60% weeding booking in compare to the other same hotels in city.” he mentioned for the revenue generation.

He focused on the distinctive venue options to cater guests in terms of their décor and occupancy “With 305 rooms, 9 Restaurants, Largest Convention Centre in the Eastern Region, Swosti Group is the largest hotel chain of Odisha since 1984.

Ramada Udaipur

Rachit Goel, General Manager, Ramada Udaipur Resort & Spa enlighten us with the specialty of the hotel in respect to the themes of wedding for this season and said “As we hail from soil of Mewad known for vibrant bright colours, its indigenous gastronomic flavours & respect for culture, our motto is to ensure exceptional quality and style for wedding planning so that it is positively effortless. We ensure the discovery of the perfect setting for every part of wedding celebration then marry that with the designer-inspired Memorable Moments & our award-winning gourmet cuisine and premium beverages to craft the Gourmet Wedding event that any one deserve. So our theme for this season is, “Leave the Rest to Us”.

Since the clientele we cater are from crème de la crème class and they travel worldwide, hence there is a great selection to opt from Mediterranean to Arabic & from North west frontier Indian cuisine to Pure Desi palate. Yes the regional Rajasthani & Gujrati flavours are always as Home coming and hence are always offered as menu choices.”

“Yes, we do have preferred list of EMCs/ Photographers whom we promote. As a part of Resort policies we do not allow outside caterers, since we have a specialist team to cater any cuisine preference from our esteemed guests.” He added while commenting on external

wedding planners, photographer and caterers for the designing, coverage and facilitating guests.

“In a general for a two & half day wedding affair, to set the tempo for a memorable experience we always suggest:

Start the show with all white aqua theme at our pool side with a selection of white spirits / wines / cocktails followed by Ring Ceremony & late night bachelors party. The cuisine offered ranges from Arabic, Mediterranean to oriental from Inaugural dinners and & for mid night suppers street food themes are always preferred & suggested such as keema Pao station, Anda Paratha station or Pizza Station.

The day two is always a busy day as far as ceremonies are concerned. Hence a Quick Champagne brunch followed by traditional Rajasthani Hi tea is suggested which is followed by wedding procession & sun downer pheras. Wedding Gala Dinner always comprises of our gourmet world cuisine menu which has varieties of Interactive live stations to traditional sweets.

Themes and decor revolve around the menus which are selected.” He shed light on pre and post wedding ceremonies. We have:

‘Amber’ our heart shape pool side area to unite two souls.

“Rock Garden” which ensure & enables the



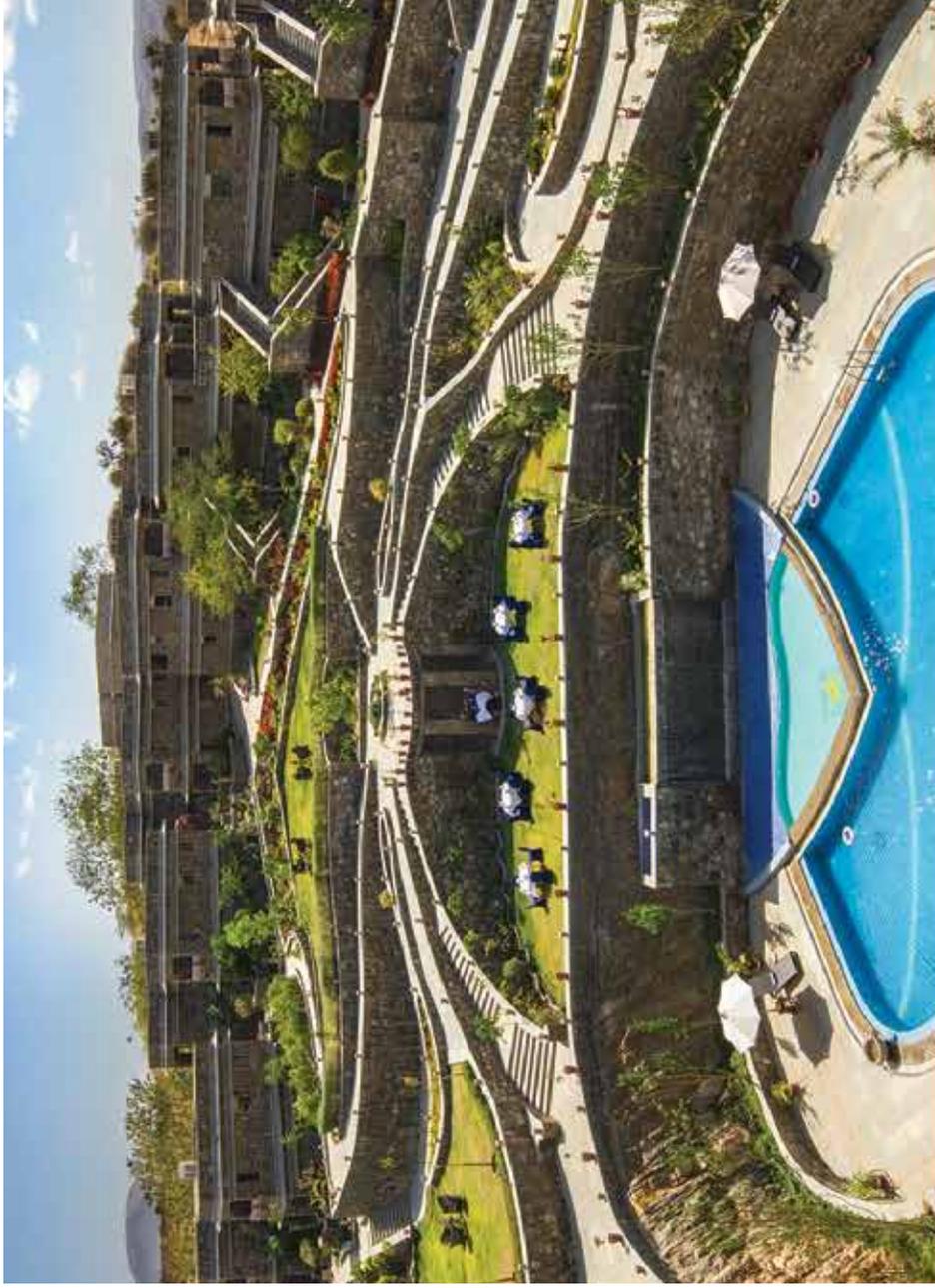
Rachit Goel

couple to understand to be united in adverse rock like circumstances.

“Sarlat Garden” which is a Hit for Sundowner pheras because of its scenic beauty.

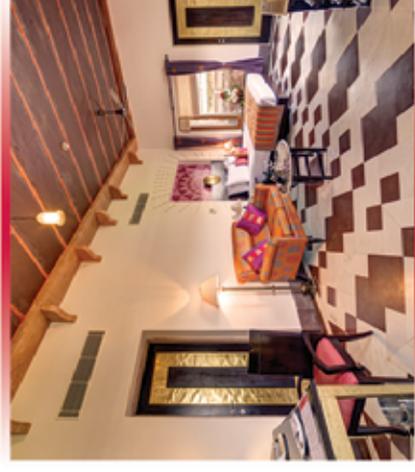
Our banqueting occupancy ranges from 100 guests to 1000 guests in different venues.” He focused on venues for the wedding.

Ramada Udaipur Resort & Spa



Ramada Udaipur Resort & Spa is a luxurious multi-tiered 72 rooms and suites resort spread over 6.6 acres of undulated land offering breathtaking views of the Sajjan-garh fort, entire city, Aravalli hills and the famous lakes Fateh Sagar and Pichola.

Call +91 294-3053800 or visit www.ramadaudaipur.com



Accommodation



Dining



Weddings & Events



Spa

Rampura Circle, Kodyat Road,
Udaipur - 313 001, Rajasthan, India
Tel : +91 294 3053800, +91 9001298880
reservations@ramadaudaipur.com
www.ramadaudaipur.com

 **RAMADA**[®]
UDAIPUR RESORT & SPA

 [ramadaudaipur](https://www.facebook.com/ramadaudaipur)

 [ramada_udaipur](https://www.instagram.com/ramada_udaipur)

 [RAMADAUDP](https://twitter.com/RAMADAUDP)



Parallel Comfort with Luxury

Established since in 1984, Swosti Group today has patrons not only within India, but also in most parts of the world. With the motto 'Once our Guest, Forever our Friend'.

With 305 rooms, 9 Restaurants, Largest Convention Centre in the Eastern Region, Swosti Group is the largest hotel chain of Odisha consisting two majestic hotels in Bhubaneswar namely, Swosti Grand & Swosti Premium, the finest luxury resort at Gopalpur-on-Sea namely, Gopalpur Palm Resort and newly opened the Mega World Class Luxury Resort, “Swosti Chilika Resort”, on the banks of pristine Chilika Lake.

All these hotels are competently supported by the largest inbound tour operator of the state Swosti Travels established since 1988.

SWOSTI is an epitome of comfort & leisure – a branded icon of hospitality in the country & abroad. It has received a number of national & international awards during the last 33 years of its dedicated services in hotel & tourism sector.

Swosti Group opens its door to Swosti Chilika Resort, inaugurated on 26th July 2017 by Hon’ble Chief Minister of Odisha Sri Naveen Patnaik, a place for all travel seekers and holiday enthusiasts who revel in the unexplored and untouched tranquility and look to unwind and reconnect in a most spectacular setting one possibly can imagine.

Rooted in the scenic setting of the famed Chilika Lake, the essence of the resort is to unify the mind and the soul with the nature. To allow the restorative powers of the nature harness a tired body and mind delivering pampered serenity in a sanctuary of comfort and wellness.

Inspired by nature, as one step into the sprawling landscape on the banks of a pristine Chilika Lake, you seamlessly will move from time bound madness to timeless bliss.

Awaiting you would be pure gentle breeze that subtly leaves an intoxicating aroma of a vast salt lake. The very moment can get you discover a world so different from yours. Few steps more and you won’t miss the chivalry of the chirping birds in such natural surroundings. As your head turns for a glimpse of the famed water body,

the small fishing boats dancing on what seems like golden hued waves in the reflection of the morning sunlight would be dream like.

Don’t be surprised when you find nature enthusiasts describing sightings of dolphins, exotic migratory birds or their trail into idyllic villages or deep forests.

While your thoughts continue to regale in what you have witnessed, the sight of luxurious cottages, squeaky clean beds and impeccable service standards can get you to a higher echelon. Indulgences like s game zones, cycling pad, fine dining restaurants will ensure a complete



surrender of the mind and soul to the place.

Though nestled in a place away from the modern dwellings, the resort is an embodiment of contemporary design inspired from its natural surroundings – uncluttered and understated. The service is not only efficient but intuitive, charming and warm.

Swosti Chilika Resort extends its guests cottages and presidential suites with breathtaking views, while being elegant and well-appointed for a comfortable stay. 4 types of accommodations namely The Sanctuary-The Presidential Suites (01 key), Millpond- The Pool Villas (05 keys), Windchime-The Quad Villas (36 keys) and

Midlake County- The Hotel Blocks (36 keys), are on offer for a luxurious indulgence.

The restaurants at the Swosti Chilika resort offers an incredible array of local delicacies and the choicest of international cuisines with the décor and the ambience just adding to the mood. Centrally located coffee shop with all side open walls and green spaces all around, is a perfect settlement for a tired mind to relax or to catch up with friends or colleagues for some light hearted bonhomie. For the sports enthusiasts, who find contentment being active, loads of options are in store.

Ekayaa, the spa is a world of pure bliss. A world of peace, calm and tranquility awaits as one indulges in traditional Indian wellness therapies. Equipped with single and double treatment suites, beauty treatment rooms, meditation and relaxation decks, the experience can rejuvenate and reenergise the mind, the body and the spirit in equal measures.

As the Sun sets, Swosti Chilika resembles a floating paradise surrounded by the most unique natural magnificence. In a moon-lit night, the aura transcends to a higher echelon. A walk in the lush green stretches meters away from the lake perpetuates the joy of existence.



WHERE PASSION LIVES

An expression that our customers frequently use to define us

TRUST-WORTHY!

From a humble beginning 3 decades ago to being a leading group in the hospitality, travel, hotel & tourism management studies is no mean task. The secret to this success is the philosophy at the core of it i.e. the group is driven by a passion to deliver the best services possible. Each and every aspect of service deliveries across group companies is built upon the sound principle of "Delivering on Trust". This makes Swosti Group stand apart and continue to add value to customer experiences.

- **306 rooms** - the maximum in Odisha by a hospitality chain 3 Hotels, 1 resort
- The only luxury resort on **Chilika lake**
- **9 different** themed restaurants
- Largest convention centre
- Most **diversed** and **detailed** travel solutions
- Most comprehensive **wedding affair management**



Swosti Premium Ltd.
P-1, Jaydev Vihar
Bhubaneswar-751013, Odisha
Ph: 0674 3017000/ 3253515
M: 085949 99396



Swosti Grand
103, Janpath, Unit-III
Bhubaneswar-751001. Odisha
Ph: 0674 3019000
M: 093374 72946



Goalpur Palm Resort
Gopalpur on Sea
Ganjam -761002, Odisha
Ph: 0680 2343455/ 2343718
M: 09337223590



Swosti Travels
103, Janpath, Unit-III,
Bhubaneswar-751001, Odisha
Ph: 0674 2535773/ 2536228
M: 093380 91727



Swosti Chilika Resort
Chilika, Odia Alapur
Pathara, Via: Gorapali
Odisha-761029.
M: 093380 15588, 070644 76131



ITDC

Ravneet Kaur, Additional Secretary has been appointed as the Chairperson and Managing Director (C&MD) of India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC). Ravneet Kaur, an IAS officer of 1988 batch, Punjab cadre, was Joint Secretary in Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion under Ministry of Commerce and Industry prior to this role. In a span of 29 years, Ms. Kaur served multiple positions. She also served as a Consultant with International Food Policy Research Institute in Washington D.C.

Le Méridien Goa, Calangute

Norton Pereira has been appointed as the General Manager of Le Méridien Calangute, Goa. Prior to joining Le Méridien Goa, Calangute he was the General Manager at Le Méridien, Mahabaleshwar. In his new role, Norton will be responsible for overall hotel performance, managing operating efficiencies, business growth and driving overall guest satisfaction. With more than 19 years of experience in the hospitality industry, he has successfully handled hotels in varying capacities. Norton brings a wealth of experience in handling leisure destinations and resort properties like Udaipur, Mahabaleshwar & Goa.



Tourism Malaysia

Shahrin Mokhtar joined Malaysia Tourism Board – Dubai from July 2017 as new director. Mokhtar brings over 25 years of significant experience in research, bidding, event organising, marketing & promotion in the tourism industry. Mokhtar served as director (Tourism Malaysia – Sydney) and was also the senior deputy director for the research & strategic planning division – Tourism Malaysia. Mokhtar was attached as well to the Statistics and Tourism Satellite Account Programme Division, United Nation World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO).

Travel Food Services (TFS)

Travel Food Services (TFS), India's largest and fastest growing Travel Retail Company, has announced the appointment of Mr. Vivek Patankar as its Chief Financial Officer (CFO). With a strong background of working across a wide portfolio of brands, Vivek's previous stint was as Sr. Vice President of Snapdeal since April 2015. Prior to this, he had an extensive stint at Unilever serving various verticals and his last role there was as Senior Finance Manager heading financial planning globally for a 50 Billion euro enterprise.



The Signature Address Fashion Avenue

Emaar Hospitality Group, the hospitality and leisure business of Emaar Properties PJSC, announced the roll-out of its 28th upcoming hotel project – the signature Address Fashion Avenue, located directly opposite the iconic Burj Khalifa and linked to the Fashion Avenue in The Dubai Mall that is currently being expanded.

Address Fashion Avenue, featuring the 167-room Address Fashion Avenue hotel and Address Residences Fashion Avenue with only 78 high-end residences, also marks the Group's 20th hotel project under its premium luxury brand Address Hotels + Resorts, and the 12th Address project in Dubai.

With two other hotel brands, the upscale lifestyle Vida Hotels and Resorts, and the contemporary Rove Hotels, Emaar Hospitality Group now has 11 operational hotels and 28 hotel projects in the pipeline in Dubai and international markets including Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Egypt and Turkey.

Address Fashion Avenue stands out for its spectacular location next to Burj Khalifa, and near the Mohammed bin

Rashid Boulevard. Linked directly to the Fashion Avenue, a veritable showcase of flagship outlets by the world's leading fashion brands in The Dubai Mall, the project is one of the last developments in Downtown Dubai.

Olivier Harnisch, Chief Executive Officer of Emaar Hospitality Group said, "With 28 upcoming projects and 11 operational hotels, Emaar Hospitality Group has set a distinctive imprint in the hospitality sector. As our flagship hotel brand, Address Hotels + Resorts has been a driving force of our growth, with its positioning of 'where life happens' resonating with our guests and residents. The new Address Fashion Avenue is even more exceptional not only because it is the 12th Address project in Dubai but also for its unique location by Burj Khalifa

and linked directly to the expanded Fashion Avenue of The Dubai Mall.

The hotel and serviced residences will appeal to those value exclusivity, love fashion and wish to make a personal statement on their preferences and aspirations. With Dubai fast evolving as a global fashion hub, the project will appeal to the trendy and trend-setters. Address brings enriching experiences for our guests, and we will continue to enrich their lives with luxury, style and elegance".





Ell Bee



ELLBEE GANGA VIEW, RISHIKESH
355 Haridwar Road, Rishikesh – 249201 (Uttarakhand)
+91-888 266 1577 | reservations@ellbeehotels.com

The enthusiastic ambiance of Fashion

The capital exuded all glitzy and glamorous vibes at Indian Wedding Show Season 2 held on August 19 and 20 at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, South Delhi. The event was organized by IWS Event & Entertainment & was conceptualized by Ms. Rashu Rathi & Mr. Anuraj Antil.





The show was a grand celebration of nuptial affairs. It was radiant with major industry players, exhibitors and accomplished designers from the wedding industry coming to light. It was a two day event featuring two shows each day of cutting-edge style.

“The IWS journey has been wreatly exciting for us, the admiration that we’ve been receiving has inspired us to continue setting a benchmark every time with the finest collection by the brilliant artistic designers. We stand by our motto to create a ‘ONE SHOP STOP’ for weddings”, shared Rashu

Rathi, CEO of IWS Events and Entertainment.

After receiving the much celebrated response for its previous venture, IWS Events & Entertainment plans to make it big again with a plush wedding setup, 75+ Exhibitors from different categories such as couturiers, jewellers, wedding planners, wedding decor artist, makeup artist, holiday planners, caterers, entertainment artist, invitations and many more, above 400 stalls and lavish cuisines to take you on a delish cruise.





Pick your style

Ashima-Leena's preview of their latest fall/winter '17 couture collection that was displayed at the DLF Emporio Couture Weddings Show.

Bridal Asia 2017



Asia's biggest exposition for all that is premium in Bridal finery, apparel and products is back. Celebrating 19 years, Bridal Asia 2017 editions of Delhi & Mumbai will bring the finest and widest range of designers and brands under one roof. In Delhi it will be from 23rd-25th September, Hotel Ashok, Chanakyapuri.

Since its successful inception in 1999, Bridal Asia has been a path breaking concept at various levels. From introducing premium and celebrated designers from across the borders to the Indian audience to bringing various facets of trousseau shopping under one roof, Bridal Asia is proud to be the category innovator and undisputed leader in the area of wedding exhibitions.

Under the steer ship of Dhruv Gurwara, COO, Bridal

Asia 2017 will showcase the best of apparel, jewellery, sterling silver, linen, packaging , accessories etc all put together & painstakingly curated to provide the complete 360 degree experience .

Over the years, Bridal Asia has steadily nurtured and provided a successful platform to newcomers and who have gone on to establish themselves as luxury prêt and fine couture designers and this edition is no different.

MONSOON WEDDING COLLECTION

Roop Vatika launches the magnificent range of monsoon wedding collection for the women of India.

The monsoon inspired collection is beautifully crafted considering the ongoing season and has the right variety of colours we see around. The brand curates an intriguing merger of Indian craftsmanship with contemporary cuts and designs. The designs include the best illustration to handcrafted garments in vibrant colours and embellishment.

Each and every design from the collection exudes modishness and creativity for the women of the era. From tailored prêt line to functional drapes, the brand indulges in creating masterpieces incorporating wide-ranging hues, fabric manipulations, embroidery, thin feminine comfy layering etc. The intricate designs are the best apparels to glam up a woman's appearance at just one glance.

Go ahead and endeavor the abridgement line designed by Roop Vatika to flaunt your looks at the wedding days.

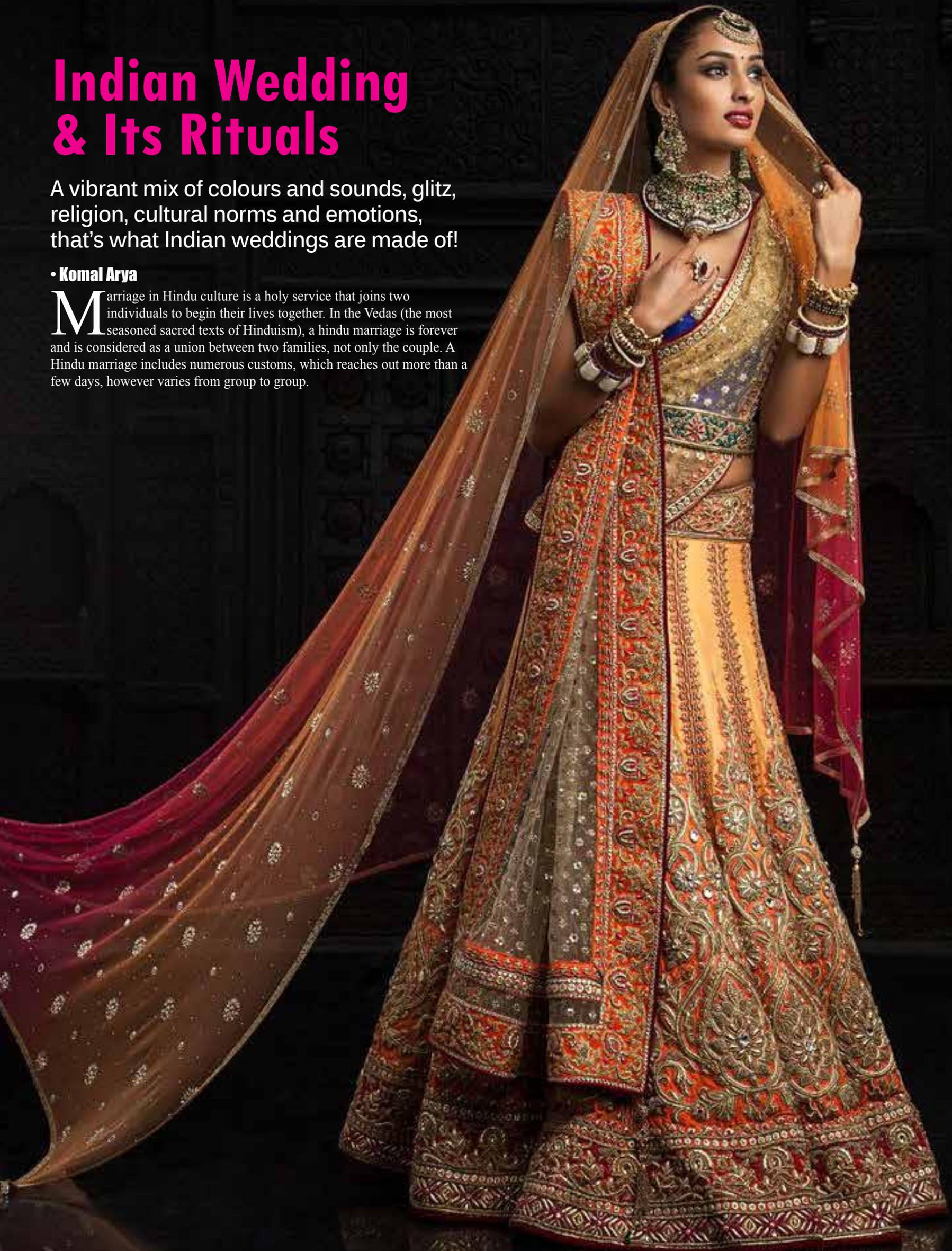


Indian Wedding & Its Rituals

A vibrant mix of colours and sounds, glitz, religion, cultural norms and emotions, that's what Indian weddings are made of!

• **Komal Arya**

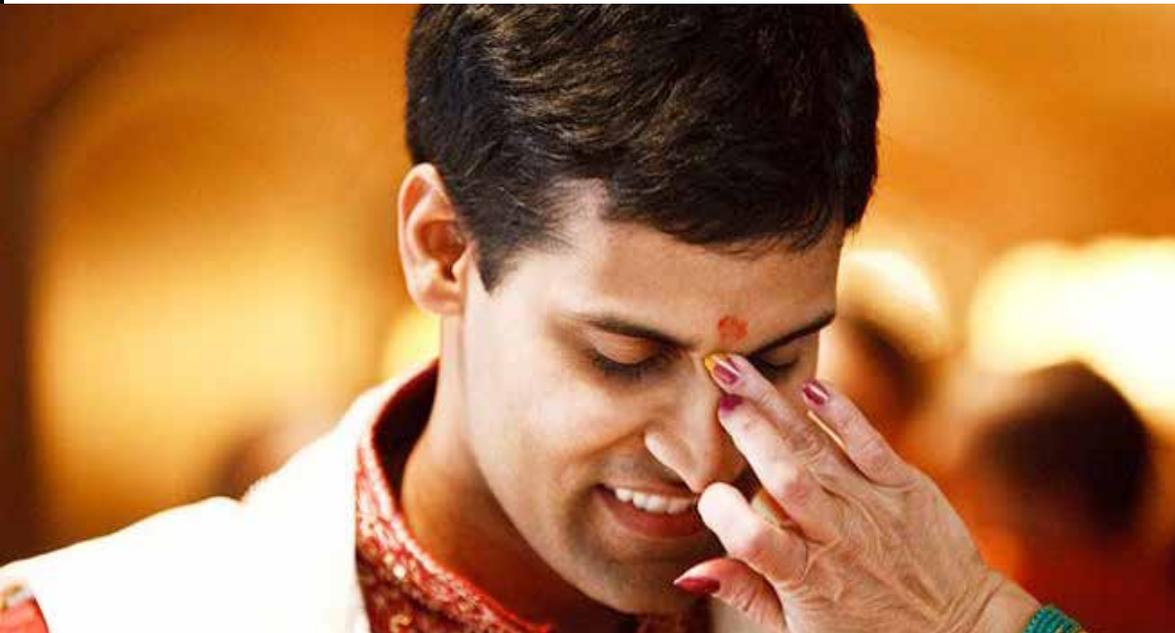
Marriage in Hindu culture is a holy service that joins two individuals to begin their lives together. In the Vedas (the most seasoned sacred texts of Hinduism), a hindu marriage is forever and is considered as a union between two families, not only the couple. A Hindu marriage includes numerous customs, which reaches out more than a few days, however varies from group to group.



Here are the pre hindu marriage ceremonies and it significance

Sagai

The Sagai or the Ring service denotes the start of the wedding arrangements. It is praised within the sight of a Hindu priest (pujari) and close relatives. The function symbolizes that both the bride and groom are a couple now and willing to set out on their coexistence. Ordinarily, the sagai happens a couple of months before the wedding.



Tilak

The most imperative pre-wedding capacity is the Tilak service. In this service, the father or the sibling of bride applies tilak on the groom forehead. This connotes the bride family has acknowledged him and considers that he would be an adoring spouse and a capable father later on. It is likewise standard for the two families to trade blessings amid the occasion. The tilak sets up an exceptional bond between the two families.

Haldi

Haldi' or turmeric holds an important place in Indian custom. Typically held two or three days before the wedding at the couple's separate homes, a haldi or turmeric blended with sandalwood, rose water applied on bride and groom face, neck, hands and feet by relatives.

It is trusted that the yellow shade of turmeric lights up the skin shade of the couple and its medical properties shields them from a wide range of afflictions. Hindus additionally trust that the utilization of turmeric keeps the couple far from every single 'hostile stare's and lightens their apprehension before the wedding.



Sangeet

The Sangeet ceremony is about music and festivity. For most part of North India, this ceremony is important in a Punjabi wedding. Of the considerable number of ceremonies, the sangeet ceremony is the most pleasant one. A few families sort out it as a different occasion or even club it together with the mehendi service.



Mehendi

Mehendi is a fun custom that is organised by the bride family at her home. This ceremony is attended by all individuals from bride's family and held a few days before the wedding, the hands and feet of the bride are enhanced in expand plan with henna. Every one of the individuals from the family sing, move and make happy amid the occasion. It is said that if the subsequent shade of the henna is excellent, at that point she will be honored with a cherishing spouse. After this function, the bride must not venture out of the house till her wedding.

Ganesh Puja

It is an Indian wedding ritual to worship Lord Ganesh before any of auspicious event. Ganesh Puja is for the most part performed in Hindu families and is held a day prior to the wedding to bless the proceeding. This puja (petition) is performed mostly for good fortunes as Lord Ganesh is accepted to be the destroyer of impediments and shades of malice. The function readies the couple for a fresh start. A conventional Hindu wedding is incomplete without Ganesh Puja.



Wedding

Guarantees made and promises satisfied, two hearts and soul joined perpetually infatuated. A day to recollect for whatever is left of couples lives, for it will be quite recently the start of a superb adventure and new journey of togetherness.

A lot of importance is attached to marriages in Hinduism since it is considered an integral part of man's obligatory duty upon earth to get married, procreate children, ensure the continuation of the family lineage, serve the ancestors and God in ensuring the order and regularity of the worlds.

This is definitely one strong defining factor about Indian weddings; they are lengthy, joyous occasions filled with celebrations and ceremony. As per the ceremonies given above one can assess Lavish and big, these weddings are never a one day affair.



Here is the rituals of the Wedding day celebration.

The Barat, the singing and dancing procession of the groom and his family, reaches the wedding venue. The bride's family welcomes them with Aarati and sweets, as a symbol of happiness and good tidings to come and escort them to the wedding hall.

Arrival of the Bride

Bride is brought to the wedding hall by her family member, along with bridesmaids, and grooms' men. And here the bride and groom stand together for varmala (Garland).

Varmala: Bride and Groom garland each other

Bride and Groom garland each other, indicating their mutual approval to proceed with the ceremony. The Pandit explains them the objectives of the Vivaah Samskar and then they propose to marry each other.

Mangalmantras: Exchange of VOWS

After varmala, Couple come and sit in the mandap where Hindu priest recite some mantras and couples exchange their vows with the walk of seven circles around the holy fire as their witness.

The custom of the seven pledges is a standout amongst the most critical ceremonies of the Hindu wedding in India. The seven pledges are of awesome fanciful significance where the couple takes round the sacred fire and each and every round has its own noteworthiness. With each round, the couple make one promise to each other. It is simply after this pheras the couple announced man and lady.



SEVEN PHERA

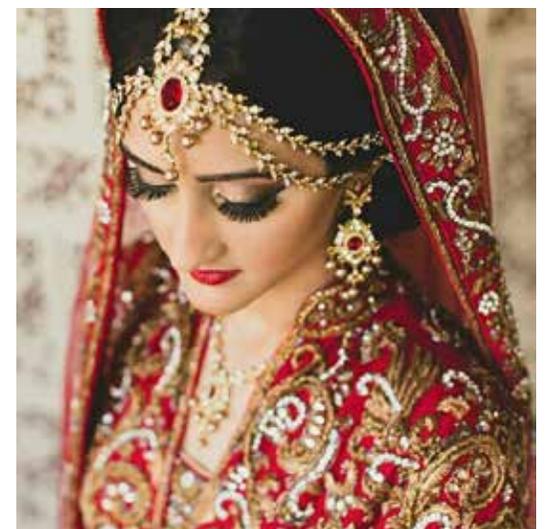
- The bride and the groom take the first vow of the seven vows to pledge that they would provide a prospered living for the household or the family that they would look after and avoid those that might hinder their healthy living.
- During the second vow of the seven pheras, the bride and the groom promise that they would develop their physical, mental and spiritual powers in order to lead a lifestyle that would be healthy.
- During the third vow, the couple promises to earn a living and increase by righteous and proper means, so that their materialistic wealth increases manifold.
- While taking the fourth vow, the married couple pledges to acquire knowledge, happiness and harmony by mutual love, respect, understanding and faith.
- The fifth vow is taken to have expand their heredity by having children, for whom, they will be responsible. They also pray to be blessed with healthy, honest and brave children.
- While taking the sixth vow around the sacred fire, the bride and the groom pray for self-control of the mind, body and soul and longevity of their marital relationship.
- When the bride and the groom take the seventh and the last vow, they promise that they would be true and loyal to each other and would remain companions and best of friends for the lifetime.

Kannyadaan - Giving Away the Bride

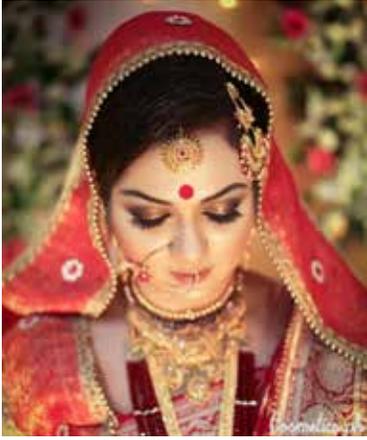
The time of Hindu marriage when, Bride's parents, "give away" the Bride as one of the noblest acts they will perform in their lifetime. Bride and Groom at that point resolve to stay dependable to each other, while seeking after Dharma, Artha and Kama. Bride's mom pours sacred water on bride's dad palms, which streams into Groom's and after that into Bride's palms, symbolizing the progression of life, reimbursing the obligation to their ancestors and the death of the family legacy to the people to come.

Vidai: Bride leaving of maternal home

Vidai a custom of bride saying goodbye to her family and leaving of her maternal home. Truly meaning the expression "Farewell," Vidai is a standout amongst the most wistful upheaval of any wedding over the world. The last custom of the wedding, this Indian service denotes the finish of Bride's life as a little girl and sets up her new part as a spouse and little girl in-law. Here is the Solah Shringar which usually bride carry after her marriage as per Hindu Indian Wedding rituals.



SOLAH SHRINGAR: 16 Indian Bridal Adornments



Amid this custom, before the wedding, the bride is compared with the godliness of Goddess Lakshmi, who is the goddess of flourishing, richness and magnificence in Hinduism. Actually, this custom is a festival of the excellence of the lady and as indicated by the Hindu folklore.

Aside from weddings, the custom of the Solah Shringar is likewise performed on different critical religious events and celebrations. Indeed, rulers of medieval circumstances used to play out the Solah Shringar at whatever point they showed up.

Bindi

The bride wears a big bindi between her eyebrows and little red and white bindis which are connected in exchange hues for decorating the upper finishes of her foreheads. The bindi is emblematic of hitched life and has religious ramifications too.

Sindoor

Sindoor or vermilion is a red-shaded powder that is applied on parting of bride hair by the groom. This custom has a sacrosanct centrality and is similar to the ring in Western nations. The shading red is to mean marriage and the prosperity of the spouse.

Kajal

Eyes are emphasized with Anjana or Kohl or Kajal, which is connected on the edges of the eyelids to make the eyes look appealing. Traditional Kohl is homemade - a mixture of ghee, sandalwood oil, and soot.

Maang Tikka

Maang tikka is a hair ornament that enhances the forehead of the bride. It is generally made out of gold and valuable pearls. The maang tikka is worn in the focal hair separating and stretches out till the temple. This trimming expands the appeal of the bride as it features her face.

Nath

Nath or the nose ring completes the look of the bride, making her look traditional and ethnic. Made of gold, it is generally worn on the left nostril and is supported by a gold chain, which

extends just behind left ear.

Earrings

Ear rings adorn the ears of the bride. Since the ear rings worn by bride are quite heavy they are normally supported by a gold chain passing over the crown of the head.

Necklace

Necklaces and chains of different lengths which is usually made of gold and embellished with diamonds, pearls or other precious stones are also worn by the bride. Mangalsutra which is worn around the neck is tied by the groom during the wedding rituals.

Heena

Mehndi is very important for every bride. Intricate, elaborate designs on the hands and legs of the bride are made with henna, including depictions of brides and grooms, elephants and peacocks, the wedding procession or baraat, and the religious pot or kalash. A special ceremony known as the mehndi ceremony is arranged so that the bride and close relatives and friends can celebrate and have the henna applied.

Bajuband

Bajuband or armlets are worn on the upper arms of the bride over the sari blouse.

Bangles

Adoring bangles in the hands of the bride is another sign of a married woman. The bangles are made of gold, glass of green or red or any other metal. The new bride is not allowed to do any house chores till she removes these bangles.

Aarsi

The fingers of the bride are adored with exotic rings. Aarsi is the thumb ring which the bride wears. It mostly has mirror embedded on it and enable the bride to have a glimpse of herself as well as her life-partner.

Kamarband

A delicate belt is worn by the bride and is called a kamarband. This may be made from either gold or silver, and can be made in various thicknesses with the use of intricate designs and stones. The

purpose of the kamarband is to help keep the outfit draped perfectly, and also to help highlight the area around the waist.

Bichua

Bichuas or toe rings are worn on the second toe of the feet. It is also a symbol of married woman. The bride is expected to wear the toe rings until her husband's death.

Keshpashrachana

On the wedding day brides go all out with flowers (usually jasmines), heavy braids, and jewels strung across their foreheads. The three strands of the braid signify the three rivers in India, the Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati, or the holy trinity of Shiva, Vishnu, and Bhrama. They could also represent the bride's family, her husband's family, and her, the joiner of the two.

Fragrance

A fragrance or perfume helps make the bride smell inviting, and keeps her feeling fresh through the day.

Payal

Paayal is a thick chain consisting of tiny bells which makes a beautiful, musical sound when the bride walks.





The Byke Group of Hotels & Resorts



THE JOYS OF
Monsoon
AND THAT
WOE offer
From THE BYKE **Is also BACK**

To Know More or Booking

Call +91 22 67079666 | Email sales@thebyke.com

Head Office

Shree Shakambhari Corporate Park, Plot No. 156-158, Chakravati Ashok Complex,
J.B.Nagar, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400099. | Web : www.thebyke.com

Our Hotels : Matheran | Goa | Manali | Jaipur | Thane | Udaipur

Walk Of New Love Lane For Eternity

The best time period in any couple's life is the courtship they remember till eternity. The courtship is the period people live for knowing each other, exploring love, adjusting their lifestyle for mutual happiness and giving life a new meaning by holding hands forever!!!

• Komal Arya

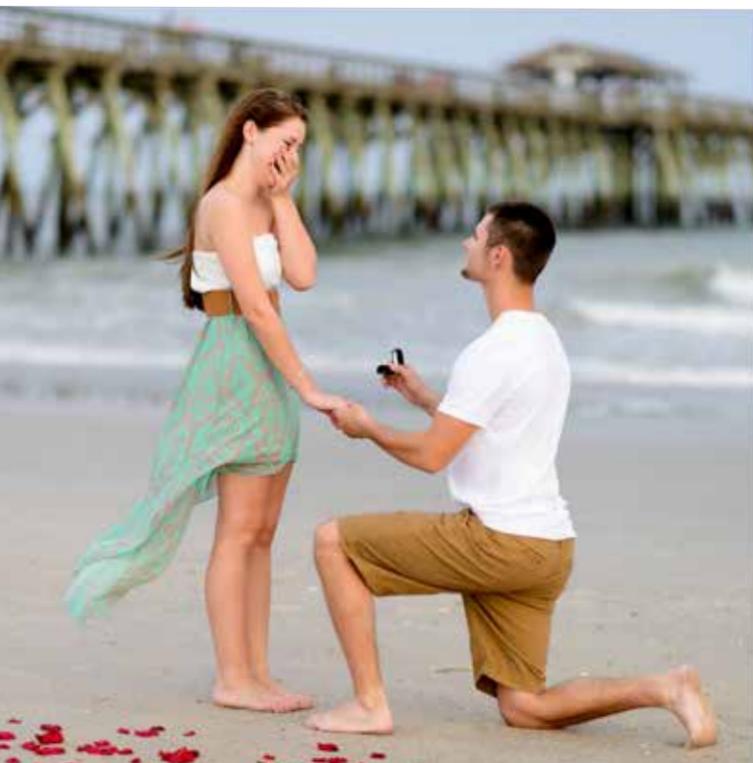


Love is quintessential in everyone's life and everyone waits to walk life holding hands of their soul mate. So, the courtship phase of life is the one which is memoir for lifetime and it is the foundation of your idyllic bond.

An ideal couple is the one whose relationship goals are an exemplary for the world to look for but with an idyllic couple comes lots of tit-bit adjustments and beauty of beholding best

of the relationship beyond ego and a selfless attitude. The jitters of wedding, expectations, speculations on future plans, future home, new bonds and relations, responsibilities and so many things makes us effervesce within ourselves. And, such are the things which make courtship more exciting and exhilarating to walk on.....

But, with every relationship come lots of concerns and responsibilities to be taken care of. It is a delicate phase of life which is a deciding



factor for future prospects of wedded life and is a compatibility test to look for the adjustments one needs to make for the sake of other's happiness.

Marriage is a beautiful institution wherein you are bestowed by almighty with someone who selflessly devotes his/her love, affection, compassion and time in reassuring and comforting you till eternity. This is the only relation that remains with you through all heaps and leaps of life no matter how bad or good time is.

The Wedding Jitters

The Jitters of wedding and wedding ceremonies is a common nerve holding and sensation which every person goes through once in a lifetime



and to this one dreams all his life to experience. But, then this courtship jitters are just a phase which passes on with lots of good and difficult experiences coming the way for either being pampered by the partner or compromising on certain terms for him/her. In the rollercoaster of life, courtship period is the most exciting and enthralling ride to take on.

The additions of New Family Members

With a partner for life comes more relationship that look forward in you their new friend, new partner, new child and new guide. Family is priceless and fundamental part in everyone's life and it is delight to have more add ons to

family branch after being married. So, it is even important to spend time with one's family and give much insight about their wishes and take their guidance in life as what they may see to improvise may not be seen by us.

The Decisive Factor

Everything in life looks good and decent until their limits are defined. This even applies to the relationships you live within and to many more which keep coming your way. It is important to start everything in life with purest form of your soul and there should not be any guilt to suffer by if any misfortune happens for any valid reason in your courtship. The pleasure and enthusiast of marriage is exploring things onto various levels that come by and it magnifies the wait for giving ourselves completely to one another.

The Virtual World of Romance

Everyone loves to be pampered and being pampered by the one who is your soul mate for eternity then that adds brightness in our life. Today, everyone is connected as social platforms have removed distances and we in one global village. These platforms are a good source of staying connected and keeping the romance flame enlightened throughout day with romantic breaks. One can surprise his/her partner with the virtual presence by sending few texts, posting updates about them, picture posting with them. Though this does not define your love but surely is a delight booster to the relationship when you are apart.

The Planning Sessions

The wedding course is the time period when you abundant things to discuss and make plan for your life together and discussions on the topics like your wedding trousseau, wedding rituals,

family members, childhood memories, like and dislikes. A partner is someone with whom you after a certain time become comfortable discussing about everything and anything. And to make each other comfortable, courtship is such period which becomes crucial and catalyst for life ahead. So, as much as you discuss and plan for life, you will become less hesitant to share your viewpoints and take partner's opinions.



Fashion Tv Café: Delhiites New Party Destination

Delhi has a new address for partying! Fashion Tv Café is here! Restaurateurs Naveet Suri and Shaan Suri have introduced an all new concept of Fashion and partying with Fashion Tv Café in Ambience Mall, VasantKunj.

Launched on the 23rd of August, the evening saw guests enjoying at the venue with cocktails and scrumptious finger food!

Delhiites always appreciate a new party place. At the launch party of Fashion Tv Café, Delhi's party lovers witnessed an evening high on food, fashion and cocktails.

Superb cocktail mixes and a high-energy atmosphere- pulled up a great crowd at the launch party of FASHION

TV CAFÉ.

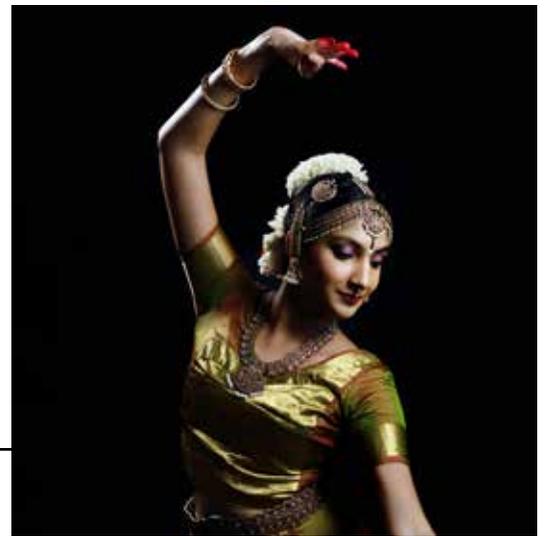
Fashion Tv Café offering a breath taking view of Delhi city from the uberluxe rooftop venue. Exotic mocktails, beautiful terrace views, innovative flavours and bespoke service in an unparalleled ambience will keep you coming back for more. The guests at Fashion Tv Café can experience the best of party music bringing together all facets of a fashionable lifestyle including food, drinks, eclectic music and entertainment.



Art of Dance

Natya Tarangini and Padma Bhushans, Dr. Raja Radha Reddy & Kaushalya Reddy present the Rangapravesham of one of their highly accomplished students – Jayashree Khemka, in the capital city, New Delhi.

Jayashree Khemka has been learning Kuchipudi for ten years. On 17th August, she is having her Rangapravesham. Jayshree was absorbed into the Guru's professional troupe at very small age and began performing worldwide. She has performed at the Parampara Series regularly and many others festivals of Natya Tarigini.



Saptan Stories

British Council India has launched Saptan Stories in collaboration with Aardman Animations, as part of the UK-India Year of Culture 2017. Saptan Stories is a mass collaborative arts event that will engage the Indian public to generate the first ever crowd sourced short story, interpreted and illustrated by 7 standout artists from India and the UK.

Audiences can take part in Saptan Stories online via a brand new website and community hub where they can view activity, find out about the artists, enter their own submissions, and vote for the winning lines each week.

Oscar® award-winning Aardman Animations – widely celebrated as the creators of Wallace & Gromit, Shaun the Sheep and Chicken Run – have been selected to develop Saptan Stories. The digital project is open for the public to submit their ideas for how the story continues. Over seven weeks, a new crowd sourced storyline will be added to the story every week and voted on by the Indian public. The seven artists will interpret the growing story in their unique visual styles. The event will take place over a seven week period to create one unique story and 49 art works, at the culmination of the project.

Alan Gemmell, OBE Director India,

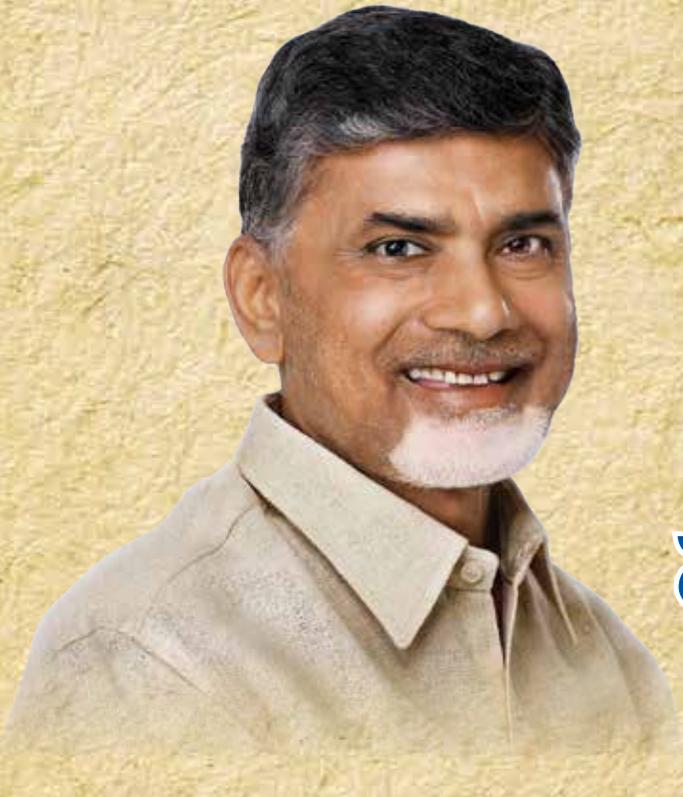
British Council, said “We are delighted to be working with Oscar-winning British animation studio Aardman Animations as part of the UK-India Year of Culture. Saptan Stories invites people to create and share a story together – celebrating the long tradition of storytelling in India and, we hope, connecting and inspiring people in the UK and India to make something unique together. We can't wait to see the results.”

Neil Pymmer, Interactive Creative Director, Aardman, said, “Storytelling is at the heart of everything we do here at Aardman and we're truly excited to be working with the British Council and some incredibly talented artists from India and the UK on Saptan Stories. Creating a collaborative, unique, crowd-sourced story on this scale, over the entire country of India is awe-inspiring as much as its daunting! We have no idea where the story is going to go, or how the artists will respond, which is why this project is so

special; I can't wait to see how it develops and evolves through the process.”

Visit Saptan Stories to contribute the next line of the story, vote on the outcome and see the artist responses to this one of a kind story for India. You can also download the Saptan Stories resource pack designed for use by teachers and educators, and workshop leaders, providing ideas for educational projects, activities and resources centred on developing storytelling skills and promoting collaborative creativity.





ప్రగతి పథంలో నవ్యాంధ్రప్రదేశ్



అమరావతి
ప్రపంచస్థాయి
రాజధాని నగరంగా అమరావతి



రైతు రుణమాపి
రైతులకు రూ.24 వేల కోట్ల
రుణ ఉపశమనం



ఎన్ టీఆర్ భరోసా
వృద్ధులకు, వితంతువులకు
పెన్షన్లు 5 రెట్లు పెంపు



పోలవరం
పోలవరం డెవలప్ మెంట్
అథారిటీ ఏర్పాటు



చంద్రన్న వేయూత
డ్వాకా సంఘాలకు
మూలనిధి కింద రూ.12 వేల కోట్లు



న్యూట్ విలేజ్ - న్యూట్ వార్డు
ప్రతి గ్రామం, వార్డును 20 అంశాలలో
అభివృద్ధి చేయడం లక్ష్యం



24 X 7
గృహోపసరాలు, పరిశ్రమలకు
24 గంటల విద్యుత్
వ్యవసాయానికి 7 గంటలు ఉచిత విద్యుత్



పారిశ్రామిక పెట్టుబడుల వెల్లువ
యువతకు ఉపాధి కల్పించేందుకే
పారిశ్రామికీకరణకు పెద్దపీట



చంద్రన్న వేయూత
కోటిన్నర అసంఘటిత కార్మికుల
రూ. 5 లక్షల బీమా సభకం



నిరు - చెట్టు
వాలర్ హార్వెస్టింగ్ స్ట్రక్చర్ల నిర్మాణం



APfiber
గ్రామాల్లో ఉచిత వైఫై,
ప్రభుత్వ కార్యాలయాలు, విద్యా సంస్థలు,
ఆస్పత్రులకూ ఉచితంగా అంతర్జాలం



కుటుంబ వికాసం 15 నూత్రాలు
కుటుంబ వికాసమే - సమాజ వికాసం
సమగ్ర రాష్ట్ర వికాసం - సంపూర్ణ దేశ వికాసం

The Rising Leadership Awards

APS research and media organise The Rising Leadership Award on 21st July 2017 in Goa. Ms. Karishma Kapoor (Bollywood Actress) were the chief guest and Guest of Honor at the gala ceremony and gave away the award certificates and trophy to the winners, which included business Sectors and Service Sectors from all across India.





Prediction for September 2017 by Poonam Sethi

“The more you give, the more you receive” is the motto of renowned Tarot card reader and holistic healer, Poonam Sethi, lives by. She has studied Feng Shui and Tarot card reading at several institutions across the globe and has, through extensive self-study, practice and perseverance, mastered the art of guiding people from the present into the future to precision.



ARIES

You'll take a break from your work or current project and do something more pleasurable. Something that moves you from behind the scenes to center stage (maybe a workshop or seminar) or mental work will be very successful and a lot will get accomplished. You will succeed in overcoming difficult situations, and in obtaining the help of a professional. You are going to experience tension related to finances, but difficulties will be overcome and a payment or settlement is in the offing. An amorous and impetuous suitor is going to try and win your heart...he/she just might. You will finally take a much-needed rest, and will be nursing yourself or a loved one back to good health.

Lucky color: Lemon yellow
Lucky number: 6



TAURUS

You will handle your affairs skillfully and complete all projects or financial matters successfully... but love will be more important than work. You will be successful in all of your negotiations, agreements or financial transactions. Money that is owed will be paid, and/or money for a subsidy or grant will soon be given. You will think about love and what it would be like to live with someone or get married. You will try to accomplish too many things at once and that will affect your health adversely. Also, do not ingest food that you are not certain of. In the end you will triumph, and all matters will conclude successfully or to your satisfaction.

Lucky color: Red
Lucky number: 9



GEMINI

You'll have repeat clients, and some financial increase or profit, but will be waiting for something to happen or turn up, and will fear the work you're doing has little value or that you won't be able to sustain yourself in the future. Financial problems will arise over someone who will stick you with the bill or try to take more than their share, but you will have enough to get by. You will hold off on an idea because you won't be ready to commit or will feel the time isn't right or that there's too much hard work involved. You will be waiting to see what a lover will do. This could also indicate a sudden flight from home, but not a permanent one. You need to get more rest, and to get rid of those who 'zap' your energy or take all and give nothing in return.

Lucky color: Turquoise
Lucky number: 4



CANCER

You will prosper in all financial transactions, complete every task you set out to do, and accomplish much more than you thought you would; and/ or you will succeed in launching great plans, building new platforms, and making executive decisions. You can expect an increase in your finances, which will allow you to spend money on gifts or luxuries, and if you had a problem collecting money it will be resolved. You'll be thinking about the one you love and will want to be with him/her again, and he/she will be thinking the same about you. You will be worried about a physical condition (yours or that of another) and your teeth may need attention. Also, if you are concerned about a tumor, it will be benign. Sex will be much better the second time around..

Lucky color: Purple
Lucky number: 2



LEO

Someone will displease you, unearth hidden insecurities, or make you feel that your work is inferior or that your job is in jeopardy. You will be feeling a definite crunch in your pocketbook and will wonder where your next rupee is coming from. But your finances are about to improve. You will review the quality of your love life or relationship(s) and will realize that's exactly what you want- quality not quantity- and so far its been the other way around. Your teeth will need attention. Wait for time to take its course.
 Lucky color: Green
 Lucky number: 4



VIRGO

You will suddenly become more goal-oriented or motivated and will have the wherewithal to attract whatever it is you need in your work environment, and/or you will receive a considerable increase in salary or income. Expect a new beginning and a fresh start. A new partnership could also be in the making. You will do very well financially or in your business transactions. Though you don't think so now, a new romantic beginning or rekindled affair is at hand and a great love affair is imminent. You will experience stress and/or will find it difficult to ascertain the problem or obtain the correct medication.
 Lucky color: Brown
 Lucky number: 1



LIBRA

There will be discussions concerning travel, schedules, or marketing; new groups or unions; and philanthropic endeavors. Money will be fair or alternating from good to bad, and will be spent on household items, living expenses, and various sundries. And, if a financial transaction has been bothering you, you'll soon have a pleasant surprise. Also, money will come in through clients, dividends or legacies. There will be no love life at this time because all of your activities will be geared to daily living, family ties or your home. You, a family member or a pet will need attention, shots, grooming or looking after.
 Lucky color: : Teal
 Lucky number: 6



SCORPIO

Professionally, you will make many important contacts, but will have to wait for things to unfold. Personally you will be weighted down with responsibilities and feeling that you will have no one to lighten your load or ease your burdens. Your greatest success will come through new or repeat business contacts, but will want to make more. You will be easily irritated, explosive or impatient but will change because a new vision or romantic opportunity will inspire more confidence or optimism. You may suffer from tension headaches or lower back aches.
 Lucky color: White
 Lucky number: 5



SAGITTARIUS

You will be concentrating on making money or bettering your financial condition so you'll busy yourself with activities geared to promoting or advancing endeavor. You will soon experience better financial conditions and a pleasant surprise. Your sense of connectedness with another is going to end, a partnership will look as if its over and a business is about to fold. Beware the demon rum, which will give you the courage to act impulsively; or someone you know may have a drinking problem. This also indicates that one who's been ill or had surgery is on the road to recovery.
 Lucky color: Grey
 Lucky number: 5



CAPRICORN

You will be concerned about the lack of business and money and may begin to feel that you've made a mistake, but you will try to take a positive point of view and wait for the final verdict. But, your financial position will improve considerably and success will come through improved business, new opportunities and recognition for your talents. An unexpected event will destroy your trust in the one you love or your love for that person. You'll need to rest before commencing any new ventures. Some unexpected or surprising news is going to overthrow existing conditions and bring a new opportunity... go for it!
 Lucky color: Orange
 Lucky number: 7



AQUARIUS

You will run into conflicts which will require a great deal of emotional control, but you will master the situation internally rather than moving into an external fray. You will be paid that which is owed or due to you, but will feel shortchanged or cheated. Change will bring a new perspective and a new you, and by putting your pessimism or insecurities behind you, you'll become a much stronger and happier person. You are going to be disillusioned and disappointed in a relationship you thought would work but didn't. You could have physical premonitions of that which is to come, or be subject to strange sensations, sleeping disorders, or lumps, bumps or cysts.
 Lucky color: Royal blue
 Lucky number: 8



PISCES

Your work will start off bright, and then turn dark, and then bright again. Don't worry, after a slight reversal you'll see material gain or a good outcome. Withhold judgment for now, and don't make premature evaluations. Money that was promised or anticipated will be delayed, but should arrive shortly. You will want the same things as before, but with a different partner or in a different way. It can't be the same as it has been... it must be better. You will be an emotional wreck or will have bouts with insomnia or troubled sleep..
 Lucky color: Burgundy
 Lucky number: 3

THE GREAT INDIAN WINTER WEDDING DESTINATION



- 122 Well Appointed Rooms
- In-house Customised Theme Cuisines
- In-House 100 + Choices of Decorations
- 9 Different Celebration Venues
- Approx. 16000 Sq. Ft of Pillar-less Banquet
- Approx. 60000 Sq. Ft of Lush Green Lawn

Expert Event Management team to Support your every function.



NARAYANI HEIGHTS

HOTEL AND CLUB

T : +91 922 772 7014 | L +91 79 6170 1800

W : www.narayaniheights.com E : sales@narayaniheights.com

Ahmedabad Airport, Gandhinagar Road, Adj. Apollo Hospital, Bhat, Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar



FOR THOSE WHO TRAVEL
FOR *Great Experiences*

- www.lamadubai.com -

SERVICES :

Express visa services,
Hotels Reservations local - world wide,
Tours and Excursions,
Exclusive deals with leading hotel chains and top selling excursions.

DUBAI (HEAD OFFICE)

Suite 513, 05th Floor, Al Fattan Plaza, Airport Road,
Al Garhoud, Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
P.O. Box 20808 | Tel: +971 4 601 3333

INDIA OFFICE (DELHI)

C-29, Community Centre, (LIC Building)
Basement Floor, Naraina Industrial Area, Phase - 1
New Delhi - 110028 | Tel: +91 11 4814 4811

INDIA OFFICES

MUMBAI | AHMEDABAD | PUNE | KOLKATA | KOCHI
BANGALORE | CHENNAI | BARODA





Bali

4D3N Bali Safari

| USD 278

based on 4 hotel
 (1Night at Mara River Safari Lodge +
 2Night at South Bali)



BALI SAFARI & MARINE PARK

Includes :

- Safari Journey at Bali safari Park
- Breakfast with Lion at Tsavo Lion Restaurant
- Indian Cuisine Lunch or Dinner where available and specified

3D2N + 3rd Night Free Relaxing Me | USD 158

based on 4 hotel

Inclusion :

- 3 Nights stay at selected hotel with breakfast included
- Return airport transfer
- FREE : 1x 60Mins Massage OR 1x Meals at certain hotel
- FREE : Hard Rock Cafe Meals Voucher
- Choice of 1x Full Day Tour OR 1x White Water Rafting

3D2N Villa Indugence | USD 278

based on 4 hotel

Inclusion :

- 2 Nights Stay at Selected Villa with breakfast included
- Return Airport Transfer
- FREE 1x 60mins massage (Min. 3 nights stay)
- FREE 1x Full Day Car at Disposal with English Speaking Local Host
- FREE : 1x Indian Cuisine Voucher at all outlet Gateway of India Restaurant

5D4N Bali Safari | USD 258

based on 4 hotel

(1Night at Lovina Beach +
 3Night at South Bali)

Inclusion :

- Wild Dolphin Searching at Lovina Beach, 2 full day tours
- Indian Cuisine Lunch or Dinner where available and specified in the program
- Free 1 x 60mins massage or set meal at certain hotel



Borobudur Temple, Jogja

Bali - Jogja 5D4N Discovery USD 308

2 Night at Bali + 2 Night at Jogja
 based on 4 hotel



Gedung Sate, Bandung

Bali - Bandung 5D4N Discovery USD 338

2 Night at Bali + 2 Night at Bandung
 based on 4 hotel



Sand Island, Lombok

Bali - Lombok 5D4N Discovery USD 328

2 Night at Bali + 2 Night at Lombok
 based on 4 hotel

*The rates is based on land arrangement only excluding Internation & Domestic airfare

